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SPEECHES
AND
REMINISCENCES

—
J. K. CHISHOLM

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SPEECHES AND REMINISCENCES



SPEECHES
AND
REMINISCENCES

BY

J. K. CHISHOLM
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SYDNEY
ANGUS & ROBERTSON, LTD.
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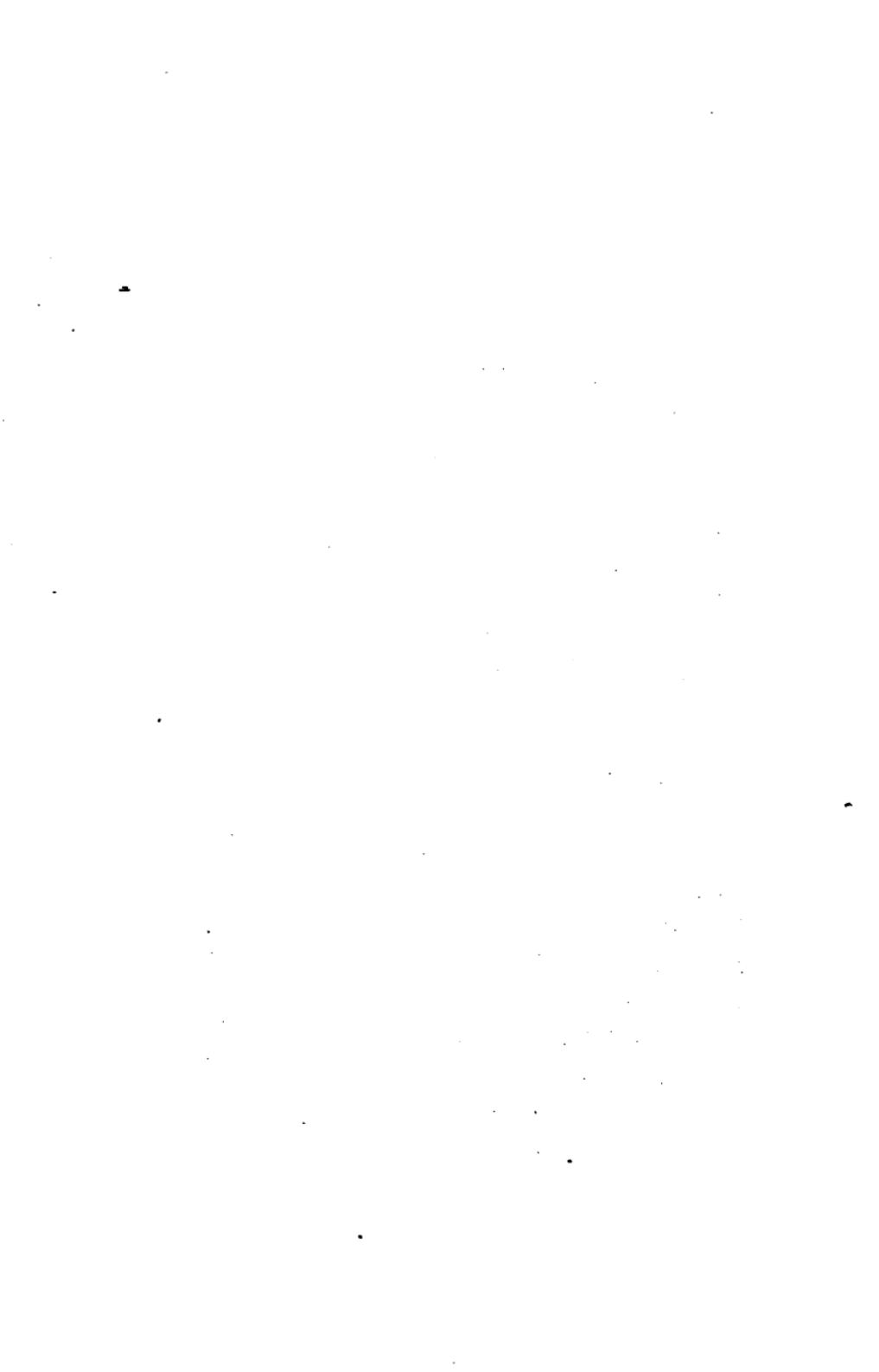
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PREFACE

At the suggestion of a number of friends I have been induced to publish for private circulation a few of my speeches. To these I have ventured to add some reminiscences of my early school life in the old Sydney College (now the Sydney Grammar School) written for the School Magazine at the request of the present Head Master and some of the students. I have also included Obituary Notices (written by myself) of my much-loved parents, whose names were associated with the early days of the colony, my grandfather having arrived in Sydney in 1790 and my mother in 1824.

I am fully aware that these papers possess no literary merit, and would have no interest for the general reader; but they may serve as a small memento for my children, and for those much-valued friends amongst whom I have for so many years resided, and who have aided me in my humble efforts to advance the welfare of Camden and its inhabitants.

THE LATE HON. JAMES CHISHOLM, M.L.C.

(July 19, 1888.)

By the death of Mr. Chisholm another of our old colonial landmarks has disappeared, and with him many early and pleasant memories of a past generation. His father, who was a native of Scotland, arrived here in 1790, the second year after the foundation of the colony: Captain John Macarthur, of Camden Park, was a passenger by the same fleet. He commenced business in Sydney as a wine and spirit merchant; being a man of shrewd and thrifty habits, he soon acquired a considerable property, a portion of which was recently purchased from his family by the Government, for the erection of the extensive railway workshops at Eveleigh, near Redfern. On relinquishing business he retired to his residence at Calder House, Newtown, where he died in 1837, generally esteemed for his genial and kindly disposition, and his many acts of private generosity. In his later years, after property in Sydney had in-

creased in value, he was wont to refer to the bargains he might have effected; and on one occasion he had actually under offer that portion of the eastern side of George Street, which extends from Hunter Street to opposite St. Andrew's Cathedral, for the price of two puncheons of rum! In those days the " liquor traffic " largely prevailed, and rum was a common medium of exchange; but the consequences proved highly pernicious and demoralising, and had to be rigorously suppressed by the strong hand of Government. To such an extent did the system prevail that even public contracts were paid for in this commodity, and the building now used as our Parliamentary library was formerly known as the Rum Hospital, the builder having been so paid for his work. Mr. Chisholm was succeeded in his business by the firm of Brown and Co., who still rank amongst the principal wine merchants of the metropolis.

His eldest son, who is the subject of our present notice, was born in Sydney in 1806, during the eventful rule of Governor Bligh—so that at the time of his decease he was one of the oldest natives of the colony. In 1810, four years after his birth, a census ordered by Governor Macquarie showed that the entire population of the colony

was only 11,590, whilst the sheep did not number more than about 25,000. In this, our centennial year, the population of Australia exceeds 3,000,000, and the sheep of the different colonies cannot be much less than 100,000,000. The magnificent modern city of Sydney, with its palatial buildings and many other evidences of wealth and prosperity, has replaced an insignificant predecessor, and rivals in its beauty many of the cities of much older civilisations. This is surely much to be accomplished in the life-time of a single individual, and may be regarded as a bright augury of future greatness.

When Mr. Chisholm was about fourteen years of age, he was sent for a trip to Calcutta with Captain Siddons, who for a number of years afterwards had the charge of the old Lighthouse at South Head. Although he was then too young to have received any very definite impressions of India and its people he occasionally referred with pleasure to some incidents connected with his voyage. In his early days few advantages existed in the way of education; but the Rev. Dr. Halloran, the father of our much-respected poet, having opened a school (one of the first established in the colony), he was placed under his tuition,

and there received his education in company with a number of others whose names have long been honourably associated with the community. The following note, now in the possession of the Hon. James Norton, to which his signature is attached with those of other pupils, may be read with interest after the lapse of many years, during which all whose names are there recorded have passed from the scene of their earthly labours:—

Sydney,

22nd April, 1822.

DEAR SIR,—To-morrow being appointed for the celebration of King George the Fourth's Birthday, your pupils earnestly entreat that you will be pleased to allow them to be absent from their studies on that day.

We are, Dear Sir,

Your dutiful pupils,

JOHN TERRY, JOHN PIPER,

J. C. BAYLEY, S. LORD,

JAS. CHISHOLM, R. CAMPBELL.

Addressed:

To Rev. DR. HALLORAN,

Sydney.

After leaving school, Mr. Chisholm went for a short time into the office of the Commissariat Department in order to obtain

some knowledge of business, and the training which he there received helped to form those habits of regularity and method which were a marked feature of his life. In the same office worked the late Sir Charles Cowper and Mr. W. P. Faithfull (of Spring Fields, near Goulburn), who were ever after his warm friends. His tastes inclining for pastoral pursuits, he early visited the Goulburn country, and selected the Breadalbane Plains as the site of his future operations. He was fond of describing the appearance of the Goulburn Plains when he first travelled through them. Mr. William Bradley had already settled in the district, and at that time occupied the greater portion of the plains as a sheep station. A solitary shepherd's hut was the only habitation, where now stands the flourishing city of Goulburn with its stately cathedrals and broad streets. A ghastly spectacle was then to be seen on Gallows Hill, near which the Goulburn Agricultural Society now holds its annual shows. A couple of men, who had committed an atrocious murder, had been there hung in chains, and the bodies remained suspended till Sir Richard Bourke's first visit to the district, when he ordered them to be taken down and to receive decent burial.

In 1829 Mr. Chisholm married Elizabeth, the second daughter of Alexander King-horne, who was for some years a superintendent of a large convict establishment at Emu Plains on the Hawkesbury, near Penrith, and on resigning this appointment resided at Liverpool, where he interested himself in local affairs, and for a considerable time filled the position of chief magistrate of the district. In order to encourage the settlement of respectable families on the land, the Government at this period were accustomed to make grants to newly-married couples, and Mrs. Chisholm received 1,280 acres near Goulburn as a marriage portion.

After his marriage Mr. Chisholm resided at Gledswood, near Narellan, where he engaged in farming, and where most of his family were born. In those days convict labour was almost the only service available, and bushranging and agrarian outrages were of frequent occurrence; the perpetrators of these crimes had been in many cases goaded into fury by the cruelty and harshness of their employers, who punished with the lash for the most trivial offences. On one occasion Mr. Chisholm was driving to Liverpool with his young wife, when he was stopped by three well-armed bushrangers,

who took from him all the valuables he had about his person. As they were about to decamp, Donohoe (the leader of the gang and a noted desperado at the time) turned round and inquired his name, which was no sooner given than he immediately apologised and returned everything; "I always heard," said he, "that Mr. Chisholm was a good master to his men, and if I had known you were on the road you should never have been molested." The gang remained about the neighbourhood for several weeks, during which time they committed a number of depredations, and Donohoe was eventually shot by the police in an attempt to capture him near Cobbitty. The character here ascribed to Mr. Chisholm he retained through life, and no one ever entered his service who did not find in him a kind, considerate master and sympathising friend.

Finding his property at Gledswood too limited for pastoral enterprise, he built a residence near Goulburn, known as Kippielaw, which he first occupied in 1837, and commenced sheep-farming on a larger scale. About this period the colony was afflicted by a most dangerous drought, which was prolonged with slight intermission for several years. The Wollondilly river,

which traverses the Goulburn country, had not been seen to run for seven years, and Lake George became a dry plain, over which cattle browsed and wool teams wended their way to market. The Nepean at Camden also ceased to flow, and flour sold for £80 and £100 a ton. During this trying period Mr. Chisholm, in common with many of his neighbours, experienced severe losses, which he bore with exemplary equanimity; one especially obtained quite an historic interest on account of its magnitude, and the peculiar circumstances with which it was attended. In 1841 stock were in great request in the Adelaide colony; Mr. Chisholm determined, therefore, to fit out an expedition and send over four thousand sheep, which a Mr. Dashwood, then resident in that colony, agreed to purchase on delivery. Such a journey in those days was a formidable undertaking, surrounded by many difficulties and dangers. Much of the country had only recently been explored by Sir Thomas Mitchell, and the natives, who were numerous, were known to be both treacherous and hostile. All went well with the expedition till it reached the banks of the Murray, where it was attacked by hordes of blacks; and after a desperate encounter, in which two or three of the white men

were seriously wounded, the whole of the stock with the equipments fell into the hands of the natives, who drove them into the more inaccessible parts of the country and there slaughtered and devoured them. When news of the disaster reached Melbourne, a relief party was despatched, but only succeeded in shooting a number of the natives; not a single sheep of the flocks was ever recovered.

In 1851 he was elected to the old Legislative Council for the combined counties of King and Georgiana, and was a member of that Chamber during the passing of the Constitution Act, which conferred responsible government on the colony. He did not seek re-election during the new *régime*, but in 1864 was placed in the Upper House by Sir John Young, under the administration of Sir James Martin. Although he never took an active or prominent part in the deliberations of the Council, his judgments were generally sound and always commanded respect. In politics he was a liberal Conservative, and, being a true patriot, his votes were always recorded for what he conscientiously believed would promote the best interests of the country. He was opposed to Sir Alfred Stephen's Divorce Bill, because it would put the mar-

riage laws of the colony out of harmony with the English practice and, by multiplying the grounds of divorce, probably increase the evils it sought to remedy.

Although he had long cherished a desire to visit the parent land, his many ties in the colony prevented him from gratifying the wish till 1872, when he made his first and only trip to Europe. His tastes and ideas had then become too crystallised for him to receive many new or vivid impressions from his travels, but he was greatly pleased with the wonderful beauty of English country scenery and the richness of the foliage and pastures. The season unfortunately proved unusually wet, and his health was somewhat impaired by the dampness of the climate, so that he was not sorry to behold again the brilliant skies of his native land.

At the time of his decease he was almost the oldest member of the Australian Club, having survived most of the early friends with whom he had been associated. A new generation had sprung up around him, and his recent visits to Sydney were divested of much of their former pleasure by the absence of many familiar faces which had been wont to welcome him on his arrival. However, he had profited by the advice

given by Talleyrand to a young man of his period, " Not to lay up for himself a miserable old age by neglecting to learn whist." He was exceedingly fond of it, and played a very good game; but he was impatient of mistakes made by his partners.

The Agricultural Society of Goulburn elected him as its president several years ago, and he continued to hold the office up to the date of his decease. A few months ago, finding himself no longer able to discharge the duties satisfactorily, he forwarded his resignation; but the members, recognising his past services, declined to accept it. When recently presiding at one of their annual dinners, he mentioned that he had been present at a similar entertainment which was held in Parramatta many years ago, and which he believed was the first agricultural dinner ever given in the colony. The most commodious apartment which could then be found in the borough was the stable loft of the old Red Cow Inn, which was a noted hostelry in early days. It was attended by many whose names were familiar as the pioneers of the colony, but all of whom have now passed away.

Mr. Chisholm was a consistent member of the Church of England, and always contributed liberally towards its support; but he

was singularly free from all taint of bigotry, and respected the conscientious opinions of all who differed from him. His was a simple, earnest faith, which did not exhibit itself in mere outward professions or observances, but was a living principle within him influencing his whole life and conduct. His religion consisted "in doing justly, loving mercy, and walking humbly with his God," and his convictions were never disturbed by theological controversies or sectarian feuds. He was always actuated both in public and private life by a strong sense of duty, and will be missed for his many estimable qualities and many unostentatious acts of kindness and beneficence. He was a trustee of the Goulburn Cathedral, and deeply lamented the unseemly contentions which have raged around that sacred edifice and proved such a source of scandal and reproach to members of his communion. Being anxious to see the building relieved from debt (with which it is still encumbered) he recently subscribed £1,000 towards that object, and there is now every probability of the liability being discharged.

He had just entered the sixtieth year of his married life, and leaves a widow and seven sons, of whom Mr. James K. Chisholm, of Gledswood, is the eldest.

THE LATE MRS. CHISHOLM.

(July 5, 1894.)

Mrs. Chisholm was born in 1808 at Kippielaw, a picturesque property in Scotland, close to the Eildon Hills, and in the immediate neighbourhood of Abbotsford and Melrose Abbey—places rendered for ever memorable through the classic writings of Sir Walter Scott. Her father was Mr. Alexander Kinghorne, of a good old Scottish family, who arrived in the colony in the year 1824 after a voyage of six months, the usual time in those days. Shortly after his arrival he was appointed superintendent of a large convict establishment at Emu Plains, near Penrith, on the banks of the Hawkesbury—a position of considerable trust and responsibility, as there were at times fully six hundred prisoners under his supervision. Mrs. Chisholm, whose memory was singularly accurate and retentive to the last, used to relate many stories of certain convicts then in the establishment who subsequently obtained their liberty, and acquired large properties in different parts of the colony: some of their descendants achieved

for themselves honourable and well-merited distinction, and their families are now amongst the most respected in the land.

Mr. Kinghorne was one day walking in George Street, Sydney, when he was accosted by an elderly Scotchman who was standing in front of his own residence. On the strength of their common nationality, each was at once favourably impressed with the other; and after a little conversation on the street, Mr. Kinghorne was invited by the other to partake of his hospitality. On returning home, however, he was much concerned at having been the guest of quite an unknown person, and feared he might have compromised his character by accepting hospitality from a convict. Having made inquiries, he was much relieved to find his newly-acquired friend had never undergone a conviction, and was in every way a respectable individual. This acquaintance, so accidentally begun, gradually ripened into intimacy, and eventually the eldest son of the supposed convict married Mr. Kinghorne's daughter, the subject of this obituary notice.

One of Mrs. Chisholm's early reminiscences referred to the arrest of Governor Bligh in 1808. The Rev. Mr. Fulton, who was the second Church of England clergyman who came to the colony (Mr. Johnson being

the first), sometimes visited her father, and on one occasion she heard him give a graphic description of the whole scene as he had witnessed it. At the time of the arrest he was at Government House. When the soldiers arrived, he and Mrs. Putland, Bligh's daughter, endeavoured to prevent them from entering; but they were soon pushed aside, and after searching for some time, Bligh, he asserted, was found under the bed. The truth of this statement has been much controverted as implying an act of cowardice on the part of one who, when in the Navy, had been complimented for bravery; but it rests on the testimony of the two soldiers who made the arrest, and is apparently confirmed by Mr. Fulton, who was a strong partisan of Bligh. Mrs. Chisholm was probably the last survivor who had heard the event described by an eye-witness.

After remaining four or five years at Emu Plains, Mr. Kinghorne came to reside in Liverpool, where he undertook the duties of Police Magistrate. At that time it was not altogether the sleepy hollow which it is at present, as a number of old and respectable families lived in the neighbourhood, and a small detachment of the military was placed there. In 1829 Mrs. Chisholm was married, and went with her husband to reside at

Gledswood, which continued to be her home for a number of years. This property, though of limited extent, has been in possession of the family for fully eighty years, and has passed into the hands of the third generation—which has been the lot of few estates in the colony. Here nearly all her sons were born; she had the goodly number of nine, two of whom are now deceased, and most of the others have long been engaged in pastoral pursuits.

In 1839 the colony was visited by one of the most disastrous droughts ever recorded in its history, when the Nepean at Camden ceased to flow, and Lake George near Goulburn became absolutely dry, so that flocks of sheep and wool teams passed over its bed. Few dams had then been made for the conservation of water in the Gledswood district, and the only water procurable was from salt or brackish creeks, and unfit for domestic use. The nearest supply had to be obtained from the river at Camden, a distance of six miles, and Mrs. Chisholm has told us that sometimes her children would cry for a glass of water, and she had none to give them until the cart returned with the needful element. Flour also rose to famine prices, and on one occasion Mr. Chisholm paid as much as £80 or £100 for a ton

of very inferior quality—so that the conditions of life in those early days were attended with many hardships and privations.

Early in the forties Mr. Chisholm, having erected a house on his property near Goulburn, took up his abode there permanently, and only occasionally visited Gledswood for the winter season. During the years which followed Mrs. Chisholm devoted herself to the interests of her family, and entered little into society, though she made many friends who entertained for her a sincere respect and regard. In the course of her life she witnessed many great changes in the social and political institutions of the colony; but her conservative instincts clung to what was venerable in the past, and she viewed with much concern many modern innovations which, she feared, boded no good for the future well-being of the country.

In 1879 Mr. and Mrs. Chisholm celebrated their golden wedding. It was kept up at a son's residence in Sydney, as more convenient for the family gathering, and they were presented with a solid silver tea service, the joint contribution of their sons. On the day in question, when journeying to Sydney, the train stopped as usual at Liverpool, and Mrs. Chisholm drew my attention to a quaint-looking building close to the station,

remarking, "This day fifty years ago I dressed there for my wedding." The building had formed a portion of her father's cottage, where she had lived before her marriage. Within the last twelve months it has been removed to make room for the approach of the new bridge which now spans the river. One of the penalties of old age is to survive early friends, and Mrs. Chisholm had outlived nearly all of hers. In the Goulburn district Mr. W. P. Faithfull only remains, and he is now in his eighty-ninth year.

Although not of a demonstrative disposition (a characteristic of many of her nationality), she was a devoted wife and mother, and would have made any sacrifice in the interests of her children. She left them the example of a pure and blameless life, founded on a simple, earnest faith, which knew nothing of doubt or unbelief; and death to her was only a merciful call to rest. She passed quietly away on the first of this month in the eighty-seventh year of her age, sincerely regretted by her family and friends.

SPEECH ON THE LANCASHIRE COTTON FAMINE.

(Camden, August 6, 1862.)

Only a few weeks have elapsed since we assembled here to testify our loyalty to and sympathy for our bereaved Sovereign, and to take steps towards perpetuating amongst us the memory of the good and illustrious Prince Consort. Our efforts on that occasion, though not altogether so successful as might have been expected, contrasted favourably with those in other parts of the colony; and I have no doubt the present appeal will awaken sympathy in every home throughout the district, and prove that Camden is not behind her neighbours in any work of charity or benevolence. I have the more confidence in the success of this appeal, as it has arisen out of the spontaneous feelings of the people at whose request this meeting has been assembled.

And here I may be permitted to allude to the part I have taken in calling the present meeting. When taking my seat on the bench last Saturday, I observed a letter addressed

to the magistrates collectively, which I found to be a memorial signed by a number of the inhabitants, and containing a request that a meeting might be called to aid in the relief now being raised for the distressed operatives in England. As I was anxious to ascertain whether any other member of the Bench was likely to attend, I waited for upwards of two hours; but, without meaning any reflection on the gentlemen with whom I am generally associated, no other justice attended on this occasion. I accordingly acted for the rest of the Bench, and acceded to the requests of the memorialists. In addition to the public notice which has been given, I addressed circulars to a number of the influential residents in the neighbourhood; and although the attendance is not so numerous as might have been expected, it is sufficiently large to represent the widespread sympathy which prevails.

The chairman has explained to you the nature of the suffering it is our humble endeavour to alleviate; he has told you of the misery and destitution which at present exist throughout the manufacturing districts of England, and has feelingly alluded to the noble conduct of the afflicted. Now, you must be aware that the statements put forth are thoroughly authenticated, and contain

no exaggeration of the truth; on the contrary, it is feared they do not disclose a tithe of the actual misery which prevails. The cotton interest in England has of late years assumed the most gigantic proportions, and constitutes a very material source of wealth and prosperity to the country. It is affirmed that upwards of five hundred million pounds of this valuable material have been annually imported into the country, whilst some five millions of the people are more or less dependent on this great branch of industry. Out of these about six hundred thousand are actually employed in its manufacture, and they have been receiving in the aggregate wages amounting to the enormous sum of seventeen millions sterling a year. Now when you consider that the enormous supply has been derived almost exclusively from America, and that the calamitous war which now desolates that country has almost stopped the import, you will be able to form some idea of the numbers thrown out of employment, and of the general distress throughout the manufacturing districts of our parent land. In this fair land of plenty it seems almost impossible to realise so much poverty and suffering. Though we are accustomed to hear a great deal of the so-called "poor man" amongst us, for whom

our Legislature in a spirit of true philanthropy has shown so much commiseration—still, if we contrast his position here with that of the starving myriads in our fatherland, I think we shall be constrained to admit we have no poor men amongst us. Only reflect on the nature and extent of that suffering which now calls for relief. Picture to yourselves the poor husband returning to his once happy home, where plenty was accustomed to await him — where the smiles of an affectionate wife were ever ready to make him welcome, and where the merry gambols of his little ones, as they clustered around his hearth, inspired him with hope and pleasure. Mark the change which clouds his prospects, and spreads desolation around him; his home dismantled of its comforts; his poor wife, pale, emaciated, haunts him like a spectre; whilst his children, if not hushed in the silence of the grave, lash him to despair by their agonizing cries for the bread which it is no longer in his power to supply. This is but a faint picture of the misery which has befallen the poor cotton operatives of England, and which appears more like a tale of sorrow conjured up by fertile fancy to terrify us.

But let us turn from the contemplation of such scenes of poverty and ruin. There is

still a bright side to the picture, which, to use the eloquent language of a speaker at the Sydney meeting, “ is the silver lining to the cloud, the rainbow of hope emerging from the darkness around.” It consists in the calm resignation, the manly fortitude of the sufferers themselves, and the great efforts now being made for their succour and relief. All accounts speak of the noble conduct of the distressed, and of their exemplary suffering. No breath of disloyalty, we are told, has escaped from the depth of their distress; no murmurs or complaints have been uttered against the justice of their employers. It has been well said “ There is no more God-like spectacle on earth than a good man worthily struggling with adversity.” And here we have it illustrated, not by units, but by thousands. Well may the news of such heroic suffering fill us with admiration and pride that we too are of one kin with the poor distressed cotton-spinners of England. Their passive submission to the heavy trials they are now called upon to endure can only be attributed to the justice and the wisdom of the Government under which they live, and to those lessons of Christian charity and benevolence which the clergy of all denominations have studiously cultivated amongst them. These

people, from their numbers and influence, might have brought such a pressure to bear on the Government of the country as would have in a measure compelled it to interfere in the struggle which now devastates America; they might have raised their voice in subversion of the great principle of non-intervention, as it is called, and by so doing averted much of the distress which has now befallen them. No such attempt, however, has been made, and they seem unwilling to forego a principle in which they have acquiesced when times were more encouraging.

I must confess, notwithstanding, it as a question in my mind how far such a principle should operate when a country is menaced by destruction. No man has a right to set fire to his own house if by so doing he endangers the property of his neighbours; and, although I fully recognise the justice of the principle that every independent State has a right to regulate its own affairs, yet if that State, through mis-government or internal dissension, becomes a nuisance to her neighbours and an obstruction to the progress and well-being of the world at large, then I do think there is some ground for interference—though I am not prepared to say to what extent it should be

carried. It would be difficult to predict the result of all this woe and misery, but there can be no doubt the Great Sovereign of the Universe will eventually overrule it for some good purpose. Slavery has long cried aloud for vengeance, and who knows but that America may now be undergoing the just retribution for all the wrong and oppression she has visited on these devoted people. England, too, may now be suffering the result of her complicity, in that she has derived large profits from the products of the slave's labour. It will indeed be a glorious achievement if through this struggle the poor African be freed from his long oppression, and a higher place assigned him in the scale of social existence.

But I fear I am trespassing too far upon your patience, whilst other gentlemen are waiting to address you. I would, however, join my appeal to the chairman's and earnestly invite your co-operation in the cause of charity and benevolence. These poor people do not solicit your assistance in person; they are not here to plead the cause of their distress, but their very silence is eloquent. Now I am well aware there are those amongst us who at the present time are by no means in thriving or affluent circumstances. I know, too, it is the duty of

all to be just before they are generous; but I have no hesitation in saying we may be both. The wise King of Israel has said, “There is that scattereth and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, yet it tendeth to poverty.” You may not be able to imitate the munificence of your more wealthy neighbours, but there are few amongst us who cannot afford to contribute something. Those in whose behalf we may subscribe may not be able to express to us their great sense of obligation for the kindness done them; but there is a recording angel who will bless your virtuous act, and register your generous offering; and should adversity ever befall us—which may God avert—we shall be able to console ourselves with the happy reflection that we have aided in the cause of true benevolence, and deserve the highest sympathy of our neighbours. I now beg to move the resolution:—“That this meeting, having heard of the distress of the operatives in connection with the cotton trade in England, resolves to raise a fund to assist in their relief.”

SPEECH ON AGRICULTURAL DISTRESS.

(Sydney, April 11, 1864.)

I am reluctant to believe that the people of this city are indifferent to the distress at present prevailing throughout the agricultural districts. The inhabitants of Sydney have on all former occasions, when their sympathies have been appealed to on behalf of their suffering fellow-countrymen abroad, shown such a generous and liberal spirit that I cannot think they will be insensible to the cry of distress at home.

In making an appeal of this kind, it is highly important that the public should be satisfied with clear and authentic statements not only that distress does exist, but also that it is of such a nature as to be beyond the power of local benevolence to relieve. In a letter I published a few weeks ago I endeavoured, by reference to former statistics, to show the nature and extent of the losses which the farmers of the Camden district have sustained during the past few years. No favourable crop has been reaped in that

district since the year 1859. In the Government returns collected that year the following products are enumerated:—Wheat, 154,484 bushels; maize, 444,148 bushels; barley, 5,616 bushels; oats, 1,565 bushels; hay, 1,248 tons; potatoes, 117 tons. This, valued at the then current market rates, would give about £54,000. Then there must be added the dairy and other minor produce, which would yield about £6,000, making a grand total of £60,000 as the value of the products of one year under favourable circumstances. If this statement is compared with the results of subsequent years, you will be able to obtain a pretty accurate estimate of the losses the farmers have sustained. For the two years following 1859 the district was visited by a series of most disastrous floods, which came after the crops had been cut, and rose to such an unprecedented height that stacks to an immense extent were carried away. The next year the floods did not rise so high, but all the flooded lands were covered at a time when the wheat was in blossom, and consequently upon those lands the ears did not fill. The greater part of the crops on the higher lands also was so much injured that a partial failure resulted throughout the entire district. These disasters were followed by a most

calamitous drought. It was so severe that the crops were completely annihilated, and an appeal to the Government for seed wheat became a matter of necessity. The Government at that time very readily acceded to the application, and the farmers were thus enabled to sow for another crop. That crop they were not destined to reap. The "rust," like a thief in the night, robbed them of the fruit of their industry, just when there was a prospect of abundance. If you add to these losses the value of the stock which during the interval perished through drought and disease, I believe I shall be considerably under the mark in stating the total value at £150,000. This sum is so large as to be almost incredible, considering the smallness of the district (the population, including Picton, being only 8,000), especially as nine-tenths of the population are only working farmers; it is nevertheless true. The greatest portion of the produce was grown in the Camden district, the population of which only numbered 5,000.

The figures I have enumerated indicate an aggregate amount of distress which he must be strangely prejudiced who could gainsay or contradict. Distress does exist in that district, and even hunger has ^{been} felt.

The accumulated savings of years have been lost, and my reverend friend Mr. Tingcombe can tell you that poverty and destitution stare many families in the face. It has been well said that there is no more God-like spectacle upon earth than a good man struggling with adversity. These poor people have struggled manfully with adversity. For four years they have done their best to till the ground, but unfavourable seasons have deprived them of the fruits of their industry and rendered them destitute. One circumstance in connection with this distress I would particularly bring before your notice; notwithstanding the large amount of poverty and privation which exists in the district, for now nearly two years no case of petty larceny has come before the Bench. Surely this is an additional reason why the claim of these people may be urged with confidence.

Two modes had been suggested for relieving the distress—one by a special grant procured from the Treasury, and the other by the voluntary contributions of the benevolent throughout the colony. Although the habit of coming to the State in every emergency to relieve distress is not to be recommended or approved, still there are special occasions when the interposition of the State

on behalf of a suffering people is to a great extent necessary. In this case I would not recommend that the State should bear the sole responsibility of relieving the distress. I should prefer the course suggested by our worthy chairman, which struck me from the first as being the most just and appropriate — that any sum contributed by the people should be augmented by an equal amount from the public Treasury. At the same time there is no doubt that, if the people could only be induced to do their duty, it would be far better that the distress should be relieved by the spontaneous generosity of the country than that we should go to the State for any assistance in a matter of this kind. But whatever mode may be devised, the great object is to enable these people to continue their industrial pursuits. Although there are many cases of individual distress requiring immediate relief, we should endeavour also to divert the distress which is prospective. The frequent losses of our farmers have so crippled their resources that without assistance they will be utterly unable to cultivate the ground. Unless that assistance be speedily afforded them, a very large portion of the most valuable agricultural land in the colony will be thrown out of cultivation, and we shall

have a large increase of pauperism throughout our agricultural districts.

With regard to the granting of seed wheat as a measure of relief, two questions will suggest themselves. One is, What guarantee will there be that rust will not attack succeeding crops? and the other, What have the landlords done to relieve this distress? With regard to the first, if we may judge of the future by the past, it would be reasonable to assume that rust will not to any considerable extent appear in our future crops. Sir Joseph Banks, in an article written many years ago, spoke of several samples of wheat grown as far back as 1803 showing symptoms of this enemy; but as no universal failure was chronicled until last year, it seems only reasonable to infer that many years will again elapse before the recurrence of a similar calamity. With regard to the landlords, I am afraid many are induced to withhold their assistance from an idea that this is a landlord's movement, and that the landlords should come forward to bear the principal portion of the cost of relief. This is a misconception of the real facts of the case, as unjust to the landlords as it is cruel to the tenants. In an agricultural district it must be obvious that all the interests are thoroughly identi-

fied, and that any considerable failure of crops must necessarily react upon the prosperity of all. If the tenant loses his crop, it follows that the landlord will lose his income; and it is hard to suppose that the landlord, after having lost his income, should step forward and bear the main portion of the cost of relieving his tenant. This argument has not hitherto been used either in England or in this colony. I join my humble appeal to that of the chairman, and earnestly invite the co-operation of the public in this work of benevolence; and, although identified with the Camden district, I am by no means insensible to the claims of other districts, and include them in my appeal.

SPEECH AT THE PRESENTATION
OF A TESTIMONIAL
TO FATHER SHERIDAN.

(Camden, August 6, 1884.)

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—

I assure you I am deeply sensible of the honour you have done me in asking me to preside on this occasion; not being a member of Father Sheridan's communion, I not only regard it as a personal compliment, but (what I esteem of far more importance) as an evidence of those friendly relations which have always subsisted between the Roman Catholics of this district and those of my own denomination. Happily, we have been remarkably free from those religious animosities which too often divide society and embitter life; and for this, I believe, we are largely indebted to those lessons of Christian charity and forbearance which the clergy of our respective churches have inculcated on their respective flocks. It has been my good fortune for many years to

enjoy the friendship and society of a number of Father Sheridan's predecessors; and when your late lamented Archbishop first visited the district I had the honour of entertaining him in my own house, and was charmed with the elegance of his manners and his many brilliant accomplishments. I rejoice to think so many other denominations have contributed to the testimonial about to be presented to our friend; it must be highly gratifying to him to find that, whilst he has so zealously laboured for the interests of his own flock, he has succeeded in gaining the respect and goodwill of so many others who differ from him in their religious belief.

In coming here, therefore, to do honour to Father Sheridan, I do not feel that I in any way compromise my own religion and opinions, or cast the slightest discredit upon his; for whilst I admire him as a conscientious and earnest minister of his own church, I honour and respect him as an estimable citizen, and as a worthy and good man. The individual who is unable to recognise merit in another, because he happens to be of a different communion to his own, is, I think, to be pitied rather than condemned. His conduct is the very essence of bigotry, and savours rather of fanaticism than a truly

generous or Christian spirit. As Ireland's famous bard has well said:

- “ Shall I ask the brave soldier who fights by my side,
- “ In the cause of mankind, if our creeds agree?
- “ Shall I give up the friends I have valued and tried,
- “ If he kneels not before the same altar as me ? ”

It is recorded of Charles the Fifth, when he retired to a monastery in the south of Spain, that he amused himself with the mechanism of many clocks and watches, which he tried to regulate so as to make them all keep the same time; but after many fruitless efforts he abandoned the task as utterly hopeless. The great King, who would have forced all mankind into one way of religious thinking, was unable to regulate the clocks so as to make them keep the same time. The moral was a very significant one and, though lost upon him, has been fully recognised and appreciated in our more enlightened age, when the blessings of civil and religious liberty have come to be regarded as the birthright of civilised humanity. I believe it never was intended that we should all think precisely alike upon religion any more

than we should agree in our political opinions or upon those great social problems which have in all ages agitated the world; and whilst the mind of man remains constituted as it is at present, unanimity upon such subjects is never likely to be attained. It has been beautifully said "All good men are of one religion, though clothed in different liveries; death draws aside the veil and shows the hearts of all to be alike." Whilst, therefore, we hold firmly to our own religious convictions, let us mutually respect and tolerate the conscientious opinions of those who differ from us; for I believe that all who worship God according to their lights, and strive to do their duty in this life to God and their neighbour, will in no wise lose their reward.

I bid farewell to Father Sheridan with very sincere regret, as I feel I shall lose in him a personal friend, and Camden an estimable and good citizen; whilst the members of his own flock will lose a devoted and most faithful pastor, ever ready to minister to their spiritual necessities, and to afford them the consolation of their religion. Let us, however, wish him God-speed in the journey he is about to take, and hope his well-earned holiday may prove a season of enjoyment

and refreshment. In revisiting his native land, and the old familiar scenes and faces of former days, his thoughts will, I am sure, occasionally revert to Camden and the friendships he has formed during his sojourn here; and whilst he revels amidst the wonders of the Eternal City (which he also hopes to see), and basks under the glory of an Italian sky, he will recall the brightness of this sunny land. I hope he may return to the colony in renewed health and vigour, and that at some future time we may welcome him back to Camden.

TWO SPEECHES ON THE BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY.

I.

(Camden, February 24, 1886.)

Our object in assembling this evening is to receive from the local committee their annual report, and to advocate the claims of the society on all those who profess to derive their religious beliefs from the teachings of the Bible, and recognise its divine origin and authority. The society, I need scarcely remark, is unsectarian in character, and confines its work almost exclusively to the publication and circulation of the Scriptures, leaving their interpretation entirely to the churches. It thus becomes a bond of union between the various Christian denominations, and offers a common platform on which we may meet to sink our differences and unite for the defence of the great charter of our spiritual rights.

During the past year the parent Society has had to lament the death of the venerable and excellent Earl of Shaftesbury, who for many years acted as its president, and

largely interested himself in the cause of religion and philanthropy. His familiar face and form will no more be seen at the Society's great meetings in Exeter Hall, but "the memory of the pious is blessed, and he will speak to us by his example and good deeds." Of him it may be truly said—

" He is not dead whose glorious mind
Lifts ours on high;
To live in the hearts of those we leave
behind
Is not to die."

In looking over the last annual report of the parent Society, we cannot fail to be struck with the magnitude of its operations, and the self-denying labours of its agents or colporteurs who are employed to circulate the Scriptures in foreign lands. It is true they are not now exposed to the dangers and difficulties so graphically described by Borrow in his "Bible in Spain," which for sensational interest and adventure is scarcely surpassed by an historical romance; but they still have to encounter much prejudice and ignorance in Continental countries, and are not infrequently exposed to insult and discouragement. The report, which is really interesting reading, further informs us that the income of the

Society for the past year amounted to the large sum of a quarter of a million, and that during the same period it circulated upwards of four million copies of the Scriptures. Chiefly through its instrumentality the Bible is now published in two hundred and seventy different languages and dialects, whilst it has recently brought out a neatly printed copy of the New Testament for the remarkable sum of one penny, thus making it the cheapest and most easily procured book in the world.

In reviewing the work done by this great Missionary Society, in connection with such an important statement of facts, one is naturally led to inquire whether the results are such as might be reasonably expected, and whether the Bible is now valued and read in proportion to the facilities which exist for its purchase and perusal. Does it inspire that reverence which a message of such paramount importance to mankind ought to command, and does it exercise the same influence in the home and in the world as it has exerted in the past? I would most gladly think so; but if we may judge by our own daily experience, the answer, I fear, will be both disappointing and discouraging. Few households, it is true, which desire to be thought religious

and respectable, are now without their family Bible; but how often is it the least opened or read of all the books on the library shelf! Do we not hear it attacked on all sides by the most relentless criticism, whilst thousands of professing Christians not only disregard and ignore its sacred teaching, but openly deny its divine character and authority? Is not even atheism itself prevalent in the world? while certain men who call themselves Agnostics, though they do not deny the existence of a Deity, assert that to them at least He is unknown and unknowable. No doubt, much of the scepticism which prevails in the world is not really antagonistic to religion, but is the outcome of inquiry and a more earnest search after truth; and although it may be regretted by the devout believer, should not be too hastily judged or condemned. Such scepticism may not aptly be described as "the agony of suppressed belief"; and Coleridge once remarked, "It is pardonable to doubt where there is the disposition to believe." Many of the best and wisest of mankind have had seasons of trial and difficulty, but they have boldly wrestled with their doubts, and faith has eventually triumphed. The often-quoted lines of Tennyson occur to me,

“ There lives more faith in honest doubt, believe me, than in half the creeds,”—a passage commonly used as a justification of or incentive to scepticism, which meaning its illustrious author never intended it to bear. It obviously implies that the honest seeker after truth, who in his inquiry may be tempted to doubt, is more to be commended than the individual who merely takes his religion on trust, and is too careless or indifferent to examine the evidence upon which it is said to rest.

For much of the hostile criticism to which the Bible has been exposed I greatly fear the churches are to a large extent responsible. Instead of inculcating, as of the first importance, the pure and simple truths of the Gospel expounded by the founder of Christianity, they have formulated a number of abstract, metaphysical dogmas, which, in my humble opinion, have done more to shake the faith of earnest and thoughtful men than all the attacks of the sceptic and unbeliever. These intellectual puzzles have done much to convert Christianity into a philosophy which appeals to the logical faculty of man, rather than a religion touching his heart and conscience. They confuse religion with theology, the theory with the practice, and to the poor

and ignorant multitude are but a stumbling-block and foolishness. I am glad, however, to observe that some of our leading divines are beginning to awake to a better and purer conception of the Bible's teaching; and I should like to read a passage from an admirable work lately published by Prebendary Row, of St. Paul's Cathedral, London. After showing the beauty and simplicity of our Saviour's teaching, he thus proceeds, "Such then is the Christ of the Apostolic writers; a living Christ who energises in the heart, and dominates over the life; not a Christ addressed to the intellect, whose attributes are defined in rigid logical formulae." Let the student place side by side the Christ of controversial theology — as may easily be done by taking any of the elaborate confessions of faith on this subject—and the Christ of the New Testament, and mark the difference. He will find the one to consist of a mass of metaphysical subtleties; the other, a mighty spiritual power. The one declares that unless a man believe rightly this mass of metaphysics, which is incapable of even suggesting an idea to nine hundred and ninety-nine out of every thousand of mankind, he shall without doubt perish everlasting; the other says, "The word is nigh thee, even in thy

mouth, and in thy heart; that is, the word of faith, which we preach; that if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thy heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." To attempt to point out the greatness of the contrast thus presented would be almost to offer an insult to the understanding. In the Old Testament also, as well as in the New, we have the one great truth enunciated, that there is an eternal law which makes for righteousness. This is the great Dogma which pervades the whole of its sacred teaching, and dominates every other article of belief. "What doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?" and again, "Fear God, and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man." Against such a creed as this, science can have no antagonism, and scepticism will launch its criticism in vain. It adapts itself to the varied conditions and capabilities of all mankind, and briefly stated, requires "Love to God and love to man."

II.

(Camden, March 23, 1887.)

MR. CHAIRMAN,—

I have been entrusted with a very simple but pleasant duty, which is to propose a vote of thanks to the Rev. Mr. Hills, who has attended here this evening as a deputation to advocate the claims of the Bible Society. I have listened with much pleasure to the interesting account he has given us of the work which is being done by the great parent Society in different portions of the world. It appears that in most of the Continental nations the Bible is being largely circulated and read, whilst its translation into the language of heathen nations is steadily progressing; but the most interesting point in Mr. Hill's address was that in reference to a recent discovery in connection with the Chinese language, by which the labour of reading and translating it will be greatly simplified, and which may become the means of spreading Christianity much more rapidly amongst the teeming population of that vast country.

The Bible Society is, I believe, one of the largest religious organisations in the world, and being non-sectarian in character, should be regarded as the handmaid, and

not the rival, of all those denominations which profess to accept the Bible as the standard of their faith. It confines its operations, as we are aware, almost exclusively to translating and circulating the Scriptures, leaving their interpretation entirely to the churches. I believe it is recorded of Constantine that, after his conversion to Christianity, he ordered fifty copies of the Bible to be prepared for the whole Roman Empire—which at that time, no doubt, was regarded as a great undertaking; but we have a single Society printing and circulating the Scriptures by millions every year, and carrying on its work by voluntary contributions, gathered from all parts of the world. In scattering Bibles broadcast over the world, the Society is no doubt doing much to spread religious truths, and helping forward the evangelising of the nation. But I think its most important work, which especially entitles it to our gratitude and support, is translating the Scriptures into the different languages of mankind, and thereby helping to realise what was prefigured on the day of Pentecost—that a time should come when every nation under heaven should be able to hear and read in its own tongue the wonderful works of God.

As regards the Bible itself, what can be said that its most able friends and advocates have not stated many thousand times already? Are not its praises being echoed from a myriad pulpits every Sunday throughout the Christian world? Does not every library teem with literature in which it is made the subject of comment and laudation? What cannot fail to strike all thoughtful and unprejudiced readers of the Bible, whether they believe in its inspiration or not, is that as a book it is unique and unlike every other book in the world. While other books grow old and obsolete and become a portion of the dead past, the Bible remains a living power, and in all its essential features is as fresh and modern now as when it was first published to the world. Not only is it a record of God's dealings with His people, but it is a revelation of His will to all races and for all time, our Lord Himself having given us the assurance that, though "the heavens and the earth pass away, My words shall not pass away," because they enunciate principles of eternal truth and justice, and teach lessons of divine purity and goodness.

The Bible is both a history and a literature, having been written by a great variety of authors, some of whom are known whilst

others remain doubtful; its composition extends over a period of almost fifteen hundred years, but there is a remarkable cohesion in all its parts. One spirit and one design pervade the whole of its sacred pages, which culminate in one great event, the advent of the Redeemer, with the record of His marvellous life and work. No book has ever undergone such fierce and relentless criticism at the hands of its enemies and revilers; but it has passed triumphantly through the ordeal, and countless thousands still recognise its divine character and authority. It is a remarkable fact that all recent archæological researches in eastern countries confirm in a wonderful degree its historical accuracy; and although it was not designed to teach man science in any of its branches, there is no statement which it contains in reference to the origin or creation of the world that has been falsified or disproved, although its words have often been made the subject of much hostile criticism and unmerited reproach. The churches may have erred in their interpretations of the sacred records, and some interpolations have been detected, but the Bible still remains the standard of Christian faith; and millions of the best and wisest of mankind have found in it not only the

charter of their spiritual rights, but their truest comfort in sorrow, and their highest consolation and hope in their hour of adversity.

The question may be asked, Could not man's unaided reason have found out God? We do not hesitate to reply in the affirmative, as he has disclosed Himself in the works of Nature, and in the marvellous order which reigns throughout the universe. But it required a revelation from God Himself to teach man the way to righteousness, to make known to him his responsibilities and his destiny, and to convey to him the blessed assurance that beyond the grave there is a home of rest and peace, which all may obtain who strive to do their duty in this life, and act in obedience to the divine commands. Man in his wisdom might have framed a code of morals of exalted purity and excellence, such as we find to exist in Buddhism and some other ancient creeds; but without a religious belief founded on a revelation of God's will and attributes, such a code would be powerless to influence the lives or conduct of mankind, or to place a bridle on their unruly passions. The longer I live the stronger my convictions grow that there is no sure and reliable safeguard for virtue or morality that is not based on a firm belief

in an allwise and omnipotent Creator, who will hereafter recompense the just and punish the evildoer. Indeed, it appears to me that morality without religion is an illogical deduction: for, could we persuade ourselves into the belief that there is no God and no future existence, the Epicurean doctrine, "Let us eat, drink, and be merry, for to-morrow we die," would be the most natural and, in some respects, the most reasonable summary of human life. It was not until St. Paul reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come that Felix trembled, and his conscience became awakened to a sense of sin and guilt; and in the great French Revolution, when an attempt was made to abolish Christianity by removing all religious restraints and raising the goddess of reason in their place, it brought about the very dissolution of society, and let loose the most violent and most malignant passions of human nature.

The religion or worship of humanity, which is now preached by some of our modern philosophers, and with which they would supplant Christianity, is in my humble opinion nothing more than mere moonshine or illusion. It may inspire a few highly conscientious individuals with a sense of moral duty; but it will prove utterly

ineffectual to influence the life and character of mankind in general, or to raise it from a state of sin and degradation. I do not for one moment say that there are not, in every community, many estimable individuals who, without any definite religious convictions, are leading most virtuous and exemplary lives. But who can assert that their best words and actions are not the result of their Christian environment, and of those hereditary influences which often survive long after the lessons of childhood have been forgotten or renounced? Such individuals are better than their creed, though in grasping at a shadow they have lost the substance of a faith. There is a passage in one of Dryden's poems of considerable beauty, in which he contrasts reason and revelation:

“ Dim as the borrowed beams of moon and stars
 To lonely, weary, wandering travellers
 Is reason to the soul. And as . . .
 Those glorious orbs discover but the skies,
 Nor light us here, so reason's glimmering
 ray
 Was lent, not to assure our doubtful way,
 But guide us homeward to a better day.
 And as those nightly tapers disappear,

When day's bright lark ascends our atmosphere,
So pale grows reason at religion's sight,
So dies and so dissolves in supernatural
light."

SPEECH AT THE PRESENTATION
OF A TESTIMONIAL TO
J. B. MARTIN, ESQ., C.P.S.

(Camden, April 13, 1887.)

DEAR MR. MARTIN,—

I have been requested by my colleagues on the Bench, and also on behalf of your other friends throughout the Camden district, to present you with an address and testimonial as a mark of our respect and esteem. When it became known that you had resigned the office which you had so long and worthily filled amongst us, the Bench thought that the time had arrived for some suitable recognition of your past services, and at once initiated a movement for that object in which they invited the co-operation of your numerous friends throughout the district. We have therefore asked you here this evening to receive from us an expression of the kindly feelings we entertain for you, and to beg your acceptance of a parting gift as a memorial of those pleasant relations which have for so many years subsisted between us. As regards the gift it-

self, which I have the honour to present, I will venture to think that you will value it not merely from pecuniary considerations, but for the kindly feelings with which it is accompanied.

Now that you are retiring from the office which you have so long filled with credit to yourself and advantage to the public, I desire to express, on behalf of myself and colleagues, our deep and sincere regret at the severance of the tie which, for such a lengthened period, has existed between us. We have always found in you a wise and faithful counsellor; and it is much to say that during a period of between thirty and forty years, nothing has ever occurred to disturb your kindly relations with the members of the Bench, nor to shake their confidence in your competence and integrity. So good a lawyer have I always regarded you that, although I have been a magistrate at Camden for nearly thirty years, I have never thought it necessary to study the law closely for myself, or to make myself acquainted with all the details of magisterial work. I have felt that in you the Bench had a reliable adviser, to whom we could always appeal in cases of doubt or difficulty.

In looking back upon your long official career it must be a source of pleasant re-

fection that you have been associated in the discharge of your duties with some of our leading colonists, who have occupied positions among the local magistracy. Such men as James and Sir William Macarthur, Sir Charles Cowper, Sir George McLeay, Mr. Thomas Barker, Mr. John Oxley, and more recently the lamented Capt. Onslow and Mr. Thomas—such names, I repeat, would have done honour to any Bench in the colony; and it is not without a feeling of melancholy regret that I recall them on the present occasion, knowing that we shall see their faces no more amongst us. Their spirits, however, still “speak to us from their urns,” and their memories will, I am sure, be long cherished by the people of Camden. But if it should be thought that the glory of our Bench has departed, I may be permitted to say on behalf of myself and present colleagues that, although we do not possess the culture or high social position which belonged to some of those I have just enumerated, we have been actuated by a sincere desire to do our duty to the best of our ability; and I venture to hope that we have not altogether failed in upholding the character and dignity of the Bench. I believe that the administration of justice has not suffered in our hands, and that the

public still retains confidence in our acts and decisions. I do not mean to say we have never erred in the decisions we have pronounced—all men are liable to mistakes—but if we have erred, our errors have been those of judgment, and have not proceeded from corrupt or unworthy motives. Some of our members also have given no inconsiderable portion of their time to the discharge of their magisterial duties, and have sought no other reward than the approval of their conscience and the satisfaction of their fellow citizens.

In saying so much for myself and the other members of the Bench, I am glad to have the opportunity of acknowledging the valuable assistance you have given us, and the courtesy and readiness with which you have at all times placed your services at our disposal. It remains for me to express the hope that you may be long spared to enjoy the pension you have received, which is but the just reward of many years of devoted service, and that your visit to the land of your birth may prove a source of real enjoyment to you and your family.

SPEECH AT A VISIT OF
LORD SHEFFIELD'S
ENGLISH CRICKET TEAM.

(Camden, December 16, 1891.)

GENTLEMEN,—

It is now my pleasant duty to propose the health of our English visitors, who have done us the honour of coming to our district and accepting a challenge from our local players. I much regret that through indisposition Lord Sheffield has been prevented from accompanying his team; his reputation of being a most enthusiastic patron of cricket has preceded him to the colonies, and Australians who have represented us in the old country have reason to feel grateful to him for much courtesy and hospitality. On the present occasion we are especially grateful to him for inducing Dr. Grace, the greatest hero of the cricket field, to pay us a visit, and thus affording us an opportunity of witnessing his remarkable prowess with the bat. I have much pleasure, gentlemen, in welcoming you to the district, which you now see under exceptionally fav-

urable circumstances; for at this season of the year our hills are not always "with verdure clad" as at present, and our pastures occasionally present a parched and less luxuriant appearance. Our Sydney cousins are sometimes credited with a disposition to blow about their beautiful harbour, and I think they may be excused so amiable a weakness. We, too, are vain enough to think our district contains some picturesque beauty, and that in some of its physical aspects it resembles portions of the dear old country from which many of us rejoice to think we have descended. We are also fond of emphasising the fact that a historic interest attaches to it, since it was selected by Mr. John Macarthur, the great grandfather of our young Onslow friends, who are playing in the present match, for the first successful experiment in fine-wool-growing ever tried in Australia. It was here he demonstrated the remarkable fitness of our climate and our pastures for the growth of wool of the finest quality, and started an industry which now constitutes the chief source of the wealth and prosperity of these great colonies. Some idea of its magnitude may be inferred from the fact that we now have in New South Wales alone upwards of sixty million sheep, yielding

wool of an annual export value of about twelve millions.

But I am not going to weary you with details of this kind, which are scarcely in order at a cricket match. This is the second time we have been honoured by a visit from an English team. For the first we were indebted to the enterprise of our then townsman, Mr. Joseph Toll, who about five years ago induced Mr. Shaw's team to play a match with our own men; but the weather proved most unfavourable, and in every way it turned out an unsuccessful venture. I thought at that time it was a bold proposal on the part of our players; but when I heard they were challenging so formidable a team as the present, it seemed to savour almost of temerity. It showed, however, that our Camden youth have inherited much of the pluck and indomitable energy of their British ancestors, and are not afraid to face a most formidable set of opponents. I will not be so rash as to venture on any prediction as regards the result of the game; I would merely tender our players one word of advice, "stick to your guns, and keep your powder dry."

I am old enough to recollect when it was considered a very important event in the annals of cricket for a team to come from

Maitland, a distance of eighty or ninety miles, to play against a Sydney club. It was the first match of the kind ever played in the colony, and although it is now nearly fifty years ago, one or two little incidents happened on the occasion which helped to fix it indelibly in my recollection. The game was played on Hyde Park, close to St. James' Church. At the time I was a pupil in the old Sydney College (now the Sydney Grammar School), and we applied to the head master for a holiday; but I suppose he was not a cricketer, for he peremptorily refused our application. (So unlike our present paternal government, which never refuses to proclaim a public holiday for a horse-race, a game of football, or a tennis match—they might even be induced to grant one for a Punch and Judy Show.) However, about thirty of us were determined not to be disappointed, and we banded ourselves together to play truant, and thus become witnesses of the game. Play had scarcely commenced when I had the misfortune to get hit on the head with a cricket-ball which sent me reeling—a judgment no doubt for my misconduct; and to mend matters it turned out a wet day, and a more miserable one I never remember to have have passed. On our return to school we

found ourselves in sad disgrace, and as a punishment for our misdeeds were ordered to learn five hundred lines of Virgil each, in order to improve our acquaintance with the classics. In those days the "demon" bowler had not been developed. Runs were known as notches, and it was considered no ball if the hand was raised above the waist, bowling being literally all along the ground. Cricket has certainly made marvellous progress since that time; and thanks to the wonderful facilities of travel which now exists, we have here to-day in our little village of Camden one of the most powerful teams of England.

We have been hearing much lately of the waning of the popularity of cricket, and various reasons have been assigned for the decline of the game, amongst which prominence has been given to stonewalling; but however objectionable the practice may be in Parliament, it is justifiable in the cricket-field. What would be thought of a General in command of an army who recklessly ordered his troops to charge the enemy, when common prudence should have suggested the wiser course of acting on the defensive? Defeat might have followed the former method; caution in the latter secured a victory. No doubt the practice of

stonewalling in cricket detracts much from the interest of the game, and often proves very wearisome to spectators; but it may be the only chance of weak players against a powerful antagonist, and cricketers, as a rule, play for victory and not merely for the amusement of spectators. I think, however, if there is any decline in cricket, which I much doubt, the cause will be found in the many counter-attractions which now exist—tennis, football, and other sports which have become popular in the country. These have all tended to divide the interest of the public, and have undoubtedly drawn away many from the cricket field who might have excelled in the game had they given their undivided attention to it.

Notwithstanding all that has been said of the decline of the noble game of cricket, I feel sure that it will continue to retain a pre-eminent place in the regard of all true lovers of athletic sports. Other games may have much to commend them as manly exercises, but there is none so good as cricket for schooling the temper, and fostering habits of self-control and self-reliance. There is also no other game so suitable for all ranks and stations in society, in which representatives of every class may join on principles of social equality. It is a game for the peer and the peasant, the parson and

the parishioner; and here on the present occasion we have a most powerful team from the old country, championed by a distinguished English nobleman, whilst amongst our local players may be observed the young lord of the manor and a number of his employees, together with the parson of the church and several of his parishioners, all on terms of fraternity and equality. Recently I have seen the Primate of our church—who is an ardent admirer of the game—playing in the neighbourhood, but episcopal garments are certainly not well adapted for athletic sports. Lord Jersey, I understand, is also to play in a match at Bowral in the course of next week. All honour to them in their distinguished patronage! while cricket receives such practical encouragement from those in high positions, I do not think there is much fear of its declining in popular estimation. Such international games as we are now engaged in do much to render the colonies and the parent country better acquainted, and promote those kindly feelings which should be maintained in every community, irrespective of class or creed; and whatever may be the result of the present contest, I feel assured it will give a great impetus to cricket in the district, and rekindle an enthusiasm for the game.

SPEECH ON THE PRESENTATION OF
A PICTURE TO MR. CHISHOLM AS
PRESIDENT OF THE
CAMDEN AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

(Camden, May 11, 1892.)

MR. REEVES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—

I thank you most sincerely for the honour you have done both Mr. Cowper and myself by your presence here this afternoon, and for your very handsome recognition of the services I have rendered to our Agricultural Society. It was only on my return from Sydney last evening that I received a copy of Mr. Reeves' address, and I have had no opportunity of preparing a formal reply; but I hope my friends will accept a few words uttered now as a genuine and spontaneous expression of gratitude for their beautiful gift. I am much pleased at being associated with our excellent secretary in this presentation; but as he has had to return thanks on so many previous occasions for well-merited tributes paid to him for past services, I will leave him to make

his own acknowledgments, which I know he will do in more graceful terms than I could employ.

My old friend, Mr. Reeves, need not have made any apology for the part assigned to him in formally making the presentation. I have known him for the best portion of forty years as a most useful and respectable member of our community, who has closely identified himself with all that concerns the social and material welfare of the district, and has taken an active interest in the working of our Agricultural Society ever since its formation. On the present occasion, however, I have a complaint to bring against him—for speaking too favourably of my services, and placing me on an equality with Mr. Cowper, who should have received the lion's share of the honour. It is true I have always felt a warm interest in the Camden Agricultural Society, and in a minor way, have, I hope, contributed to advance its interests; but I have regarded myself as a sort of respectable figure-head to be brought into requisition on special occasions when addresses were to be prepared, or a few toasts wanted at our annual luncheons. The real work of the society, as you all know, has been done by our indefatigable secretary, who has literally made it a

labour of love, and never ceased to urge its claims upon residents of the district. It is to him we are chiefly indebted for the position it now holds amongst the kindred institutions of the country, and for the success which has attended our recent shows. I am glad therefore to have this opportunity of again recognising his past valuable and gratuitous services, and disclaiming any undue merit for the little I have done in the work of the society.

Mr. Reeves, in his address, referred to the efforts of the late Mr. James Macarthur to establish a Farmers' Club upwards of thirty years ago. I am glad to say I attended a meeting which he called in Camden for the discussion of the proposal, and moved a resolution on the subject. The matter, however, never got beyond its inception, though a code of rules was framed and, I think, a ploughing match was held in the neighbourhood of the town. We never reached the length of having a show; but could we then have obtained the services of a secretary like our friend, Mr. Cowper, the society would in all probability have been permanently established, and Camden could have boasted of having one of the oldest institutions of the kind in the colony.

Before concluding my remarks, I must ex-

press my pleasure at seeing so many ladies present, for although we have a few enrolled amongst our list of members, we have only been honoured on one previous occasion with their attendance. I cannot say that I am yet a convert to woman suffrage; but I am sensible of the grace and influence their presence lends to all functions of a public or private character, and of their tendency to check disorder and intemperate speech. It will always afford us much pleasure to see them at our agricultural meetings, and I hope many more may be induced to become members of the society. Again I thank you most gratefully for your beautiful gift, which I shall always value as a memento of those friendly feelings which have ever subsisted between me and the members of our Agricultural Society, and the Camden community generally. To Mr. A. J. Doust also, who has so kindly interested himself in the presentation, I would express my sense of obligation.

SPEECH ON THE OCCASION OF A PRESENTATION TO MR. COWPER.

(Camden, March 20, 1895.)

DEAR MR. COWPER,—

The very pleasant duty has devolved on me this evening of presenting you with a parting gift on behalf of your Camden friends as a token of their regard, and a small recognition of the many valuable services you have rendered to the district during your residence amongst us.

When it became known that you had received from the bank authorities a well-merited holiday, and contemplated a visit to the Old Country, it was thought by many of your friends that you should not be allowed to take your departure without some formal acknowledgment of those services—though some little difference of opinion existed as to the form of testimonial which would be most suitable or most acceptable to yourself. Under ordinary circumstances a banquet might have been appropriate; but, considering the long and important services you have rendered to the community, it was felt that such a mode would have been quite in-

adequate. Even at the best, a dinner seems to me a very ephemeral compliment for substantial services which have been gratuitously contributed. Besides which, it is not altogether free from a taint of selfishness, inasmuch as those who partake of the feast get back a very fair equivalent in the wines and viands they have consumed in honour of the guest; and when they have all eaten and drunken nothing remains but the fragments, and the function is at an end. One might almost address the guest in the words of Horace,

*Lusisti . . . atque bibisti;
Tempus abire tibi est;*

which may be freely translated: " You have enjoyed yourself sufficiently at our expense, you have eaten enough of our good cheer and drunk enough of our wine; it is time for you to depart." Perhaps this is rather a cynical view to take of a complimentary banquet; but I feel assured our friend will highly value the form in which our regard for him has been exhibited on the present occasion, and which will prove a more enduring evidence of our esteem.

It seems scarcely necessary that I should particularise the various services performed by Mr. Cowper during his ten years' residence amongst us. Everyone present must

be aware of the obligations under which he has placed us, and which embrace every object calculated to advance the social and material welfare of the district. To him we are mainly indebted for the high position our Agricultural Society has taken amongst kindred societies in the colony, and the marked success achieved by our shows. Ever since its formation he has filled the office of honorary secretary, and it was only recently, when the duties became too onerous, that a paid secretary was appointed to lighten his labours. I might also refer to the valuable and important services he has rendered in connection with the butter factories in the district, two or three of which he has been largely instrumental in establishing, and to one of which (the pioneer one at Westbrook) he has acted as honorary secretary during a period of six or seven years. These factories, I need not say, have proved an immense benefit to the district, and have revolutionised the whole system of dairy farming throughout the colony. Then he has taken an active interest in the School of Arts, and long served on its committee. He has also been a prominent member of the Rifle Club, the Dramatic Society, and the Philharmonic, besides being ever ready to afford his services

at concerts or bazaars, in aid of good and local objects.

Such a record of useful and gratuitous services so cheerfully rendered is, I venture to think, quite unique in the history of this district; and when it is considered that, in addition to these, he has most faithfully and zealously discharged his duties in connection with the bank, it is matter for wonderment how he has managed to find the time for such multifarious services. Every client of the bank will, I am sure, bear willing testimony to his marked efficiency, his courteous and obliging manners, and his thorough devotion to duty; and his employers have stamped their approval of his management by according him full pay during the whole period of his absence.

I should ill discharge my duty here this evening did I omit a reference to Mrs. Cowper, who has been to our friend a veritable helpmate in all the work he has been enabled to perform. Not only has she cheered and encouraged him with her sympathy, but she has helped him in much clerical work; and within the last few days, when her family and preparations for the voyage might well have occupied all her time, I found her busily engaged in matters connected with the recent show. In all the

relations of domestic life, whether as wife, mother, or companion, she has been a pattern which all might imitate, and personally I would thank her for the warm welcome I ever received from her during my visits to the bank, and for much genuine hospitality which I fear I have but poorly repaid.

It now remains for me to wish you, Mr. and Mrs. Cowper, in the name of your Camden friends, a most enjoyable holiday. May your visit to England thoroughly recruit your energies and afford you much happiness. But while you revel amidst the beauties and wonders of the old world, I feel assured your thoughts will often revert to this sunny land and your old home at Camden, which must for ever remain dear to you for many early and pleasant memories. It falls to the lot of few who have resided long in one locality, and who have conscientiously done their duty, to avoid making an enemy, or incurring the displeasure of some captious individuals; but you will leave the district with the good wishes of everyone in the community and with the approbation of all classes. I only hope that all who have met here this evening to bid you farewell may be spared to greet you on your return, and welcome you back to the scene of your past labours.

SPEECH AT A BANQUET TENDERED TO MR. CHISHOLM.

(Camden, December 3, 1896.)

MR. DOWNES AND GENTLEMEN,—

I know not how to thank you for the high compliment you have paid me in asking me to be your guest this evening, and for the enthusiastic manner in which you have received the toast of my health. It is all the more gratifying to me as I have never courted popularity, but simply tried to do my duty conscientiously, seeking no further reward than the approval of my own conscience and the respect of my fellow men. I have rather a serious complaint to make against my good friend, the chairman, who has so misrepresented my character, that I feel almost doubtful of my own identity. He has completely ignored my defects and exaggerated my merits; but although I cannot feel that I am entitled to such praise, I feel assured he is most sincere in what he has said of me, and I highly appreciate the kindly motives which have prompted his remarks.

He has referred, in terms much too flattering, to my services in connection with our Agricultural Society. As you are aware, I have frequently acknowledged that the real work of the Society has been done by our excellent hon. sec., Mr. Cowper, and a good practical committee, with whom he has always been associated; whilst I have only been a sort of figure-head to be called into requisition on special occasions. As I observe a number of old colleagues present with whom I have acted during the eleven years of my presidency, I should like to take this opportunity of expressing my grateful sense of the uniform courtesy and consideration they have extended to me on all occasions, which have made the duties exceedingly light, and the office very pleasant to fill. I claim, however, no monopoly of the office, which I shall be quite ready to relinquish whenever you think a change desirable; for I believe there are younger members of the Society, possessing more energy, quite competent to perform the duties.

During the time we have been in existence as a Society, we have held a number of very successful shows, and achieved a very good position among the kindred Societies of the colony, our shows ranking about the fifth or sixth of those held in the country districts.

We have had to contend against two or three very serious droughts, and last year so disastrous was the weather that it was deemed advisable to abandon the show altogether. At present the prospect is more favourable, and I think we can look forward to a most successful exhibition next March. Unfortunately our funds are low and, unless we can have them supplemented by a Government grant, we shall not be able to offer very attractive prizes. I am glad to see our member, Mr. Bull, present amongst the guests; which I regard as a personal compliment, as well as one to the society. He has been interesting himself to obtain for us a special grant, in which he has already assured us he is likely to be successful, and as there is abundant precedent for the application I see no reason why we should not participate in such benefits. The Berry show held just now has received the sum of £350, but hitherto we have had to be content with the ordinary subsidy.

I should like to say a few words on the subjects of the drought and the lessons which they should teach. Now that dairy farming has become the staple industry of our district, it is more imperative than ever that farmers should in seasons of abundance make provision for the scarcity produced by

droughts. Last year, in consequence of adverse seasons, the dairies were almost threatened with collapse, and many of our farmers had to expend a large portion of their savings of former years in order to keep their stock alive. Now, had they only in the preceding years, when crops could have been largely grown, laid up a reserve of fodder, much valuable stock might have been saved, and the dairies kept in more active work. I have repeatedly brought under the notice of our farmers the great value and importance of ensilage for milking cows, and some years ago published some letters in our local paper, in which I endeavoured to explain the process, and the construction of the pits. It can be made of any green crop, such as maize, sorghum, or the natural grasses, and will, I believe, keep fresh and sound for years in a properly constructed stack or pit. At present we have the prospect of a favourable season, and our astronomer, Mr. Russell, has predicted two good years to follow; but of this we may feel assured, that the normal condition of our climate is to have dry seasons and wet ones following at longer or shorter intervals. I am old enough to recollect the great drought of 1839, when flour rose to £100 a ton, and a large number of the stock of the country

means of disseminating much useful and practical information among people. I know of considerable difficulty in stimulating interest in such meetings, for generally a busy man, and must often work ten or twelve hours a day, so that when his work is done he stays at home and rests. I am, however, for some time to come, engaged in holding shows, Agricultural College and farms to spread a more scientific knowledge amongst our rural population. Mr. Sydney Smith, the Minister of Education, has been unable to give me any information about the colony as he might have given. him the colony is largely occupied in organising our agricultural establishment, the Hawkesbury Experimental Farm, its staff of efficient teachers, no doubt will in time lead to improvements in all branches of our agriculture. The experimental farms will be established in different parts of the colony, and will show what crops are best suited to different localities; but when necessary to learn is how to

perished. The Nepean at Camden ceased running (the only time on record) and Lake George, the largest in the colony (being about twenty miles long by seven or eight broad) completely dried up. Seasons prior to that date had been gradually getting drier, and the drought only culminated about that time; for during the forties the rainfall became more abundant and the lake filled up again, and has maintained a high level ever since. From this I think it may be inferred that, however much we may have suffered from droughts since 1839, the seasons preceding that must have been more severe, and the droughts of longer duration. The lessons of the past should not be lost upon us, and I would impress them on all who engage in agricultural pursuits.

I have often thought how our Agricultural Societies could be made more educational in their character; for, although I believe much good has been done by the holding of shows, through the competition they have excited amongst exhibitors of stock and farm produce, still I think more might be accomplished. If they could be converted into Farmers' Clubs, with periodical meetings, where matters of common interest could be discussed and various experiences related, they might be made the

means of disseminating much knowledge of a useful and practical nature amongst our farming people. I know there would be considerable difficulty in sustaining an interest in such meetings, for the farmer is generally a busy man, and to be successful must often work ten or twelve hours a day—so that when his work is done he prefers to stay at home and rest. I am afraid, therefore, for some time to come, we must confine ourselves to holding shows, and trust to our Agricultural College and experimental farms to spread a more scientific knowledge amongst our rural poulation. I am sorry Mr. Sydney Smith, the Minister for Agriculture, has been unable to attend the banquet, as he might have given us some interesting information about agricultural matters and experimental farms. It is to him the colony is largely indebted for organising our agricultural department and establishing the Hawkesbury College with its staff of efficient teachers, which I have no doubt will in time lead to great improvements in all branches of our farming system. The experimental farms which are being established in different parts of the colony will show what crops are best adapted to different localities; but what it is specially necessary to learn is how such crops can be

grown to pay. We all know that by a large expenditure of money and labour the poorest soils may be rendered productive, but the farmer expects a monetary return for his labour and outlay.

Although the chairman, in proposing the toast of my health, confined his remarks almost exclusively to my connection with our Agricultural Society, he incidentally referred to other services which he stated I had rendered to the district. With the permission of the company I should like to say a few words in reference to the Magistracy with which I have been so long associated. It is close on forty years since I first took my seat on the Camden Bench, and as I have been a pretty regular attendant during that lengthened period, it is no mean record of gratuitous service. In looking back through such a long vista of years, I am forcibly reminded of the flight of time and the inevitable changes which have taken place in our community. Of all those who occupied a seat on the Bench when I first took my seat amongst them, I am the only survivor; and it is not without a feeling of sadness I occasionally recall their names, as examples that might well be followed. Such men as Mr. James Macarthur and his brother Sir William, Sir Charles Cowper, Sir George

Macleay, Mr. John Oxley, Mr. Downes (the much respected father of our good chairman), Mr. Thomas Barker, and later on Captain Onslow and Mr. Thomas, would have adorned any Bench in the colony, and some were distinguished in the Legislature of the country. It might be thought that with the removal of such men the glory of the Bench had departed; but in justice to myself and my present colleagues, I venture to think that, although we may not possess the culture or social position of some of those whose names I have mentioned, the administration of justice has not suffered at our hands, and the public still retains confidence in our acts and decisions. Speaking for myself individually, I can conscientiously assert that, although I may occasionally have erred in judgment, I have without fear or favour endeavoured to decide justly all cases that have ever come before me. For many years the Bench had the advantage of the services of a most excellent and efficient Clerk of Petty Sessions in the person of our old friend, Mr. John B. Martin, who, I am sorry to say, has been prevented from being present this evening through indisposition. He was so well versed in Magisterial Law and the procedure of the Court that in all cases of doubt we could

always rely on him for advice and assistance. With such an adviser always on hand and ready to help, I never thought it necessary to study the law as I should otherwise have done—which has seriously impaired my efficiency on the Bench and latterly caused me much regret. It may interest more present to hear that during my long period of service on the Bench there has never been, so far as I can recollect, a single capital offence brought before the Court, and comparatively very few indictable offences or cases of serious crime. This, I think, speaks well for the moral tone of our district, and the law-abiding character of the inhabitants.

I will not detain you with any further remarks; but I would repeat my sincere and grateful acknowledgments of the high compliments you have paid me this evening, and the pleasure it has afforded me to see so many friends, both old and young, gathered around to do me honour. As time rolls on the old ones pass away, carrying with them the pleasant memories of early days; but I am glad to think I still retain the faculty of attracting those much younger than myself; and I am happy in being able to say I reckon amongst them some of the dearest and most valued friends I possess.

To them I would say: "Always reverence those of riper years, remembering that nothing gives the aged a keener pleasure than a kind word or a kindly action coming from the young." I can say from my own experience, in grateful acknowledgment, that they have done much to brighten my life, and make me think better of humanity. Gentlemen, I most sincerely thank you.

SPEECH AT THE OPENING OF A BAZAAR IN CONNECTION WITH THE R.C. CHURCH.

(Camden, November 22, 1899.)

I have come here to-day in compliance with an invitation conveyed to me by your respected priest, the Rev. Father Sheridan, who informed me that the committee had expressed a desire that I should open your bazaar. I am highly sensible of the honour you have conferred upon me. I regard it not only as a personal compliment, but as an evidence of those friendly relations which have always existed in this district between the members of my own communion and the Roman Catholic Church. The first impulse to this friendly feeling was given, I believe, by Mr. James Macarthur, the father of Mrs. Onslow, when many years ago he supported the candidature of Mr. Roger Therry (a Roman Catholic gentleman), and by his influence was chiefly instrumental in having him returned for this constituency to the first elective legislature of the colony. Civil and religious liberty

were not so well recognised in those early days as at the present time, and Mr. Macarthur's generous action cost him his own election for Central Cumberland, for which he was subsequently a candidate.

It has been my good fortune for more than forty years to have lived on terms of friendly intercourse with every priest who has occupied the parish during that lengthened period, and this is by no means the first occasion on which I have been asked to take a prominent part in your celebrations. When the brother of your present priest was about to leave the district on a visit to his native land, I was requested to preside at a large farewell meeting, and to present him with a testimonial which had been liberally subscribed to by members of the various Protestant denominations. I regret his absence to-day, as he did much whilst a resident of the district, to promote friendly feelings amongst the people, and I regarded him as a personal friend. It was said of Dean Stanley that his sympathies were of such a comprehensive nature that he might have been an honorary member of all the religious denominations. I don't know that mine are of such an all-embracing character; but whilst I am a firm believer in my own creed, I can recognise

the good there is in others—and I may say without self-praise that I have been, according to my means, a willing, if not a liberal contributor to the different denominations in my own district. I have always felt that the cardinal points upon which we agree are of more importance than those upon which we differ, and I am fond of the sentiments enunciated in the old Latin phrase: "*In essentiis unitas, in dubiis libertas, in omnibus caritas,*" which in plain English means: "In things necessary let there be unity, in matters doubtful liberty, but in all things charity." There should be many platforms upon which we might meet in defence of our common Christianity, and for the benefit of humanity. To me it is deplorable that there should be numbers in my own Church wrangling over such trifles as candles and incense, whilst the foundations of Christianity are being assailed by infidelity, and millions are sorely in need of the bread of life. It is because I believe in the liberal principles to which I have endeavoured to give expression that I have come here to-day to open your bazaar, and in doing so I do not think I have done anything to compromise myself or my Roman Catholic friends.

I should now like to say a few words on

the subject of bazaars. Although I do not altogether endorse the Frenchman's definition, "It is a place where they sell nossing and charge a high price for it," I will candidly confess I am not particularly in love with them as a form of entertainment, or as a means of raising money for religious purposes. If we all contributed to our respective churches in proportion to our circumstances, there would be no necessity for such extraneous methods. But bazaars are now recognised institutions, or, dare I say, necessary evils. I have no intention of disparaging the voluntary and self-denying labours of those good women who devote so much of their time and energy to these objects, and who are chiefly instrumental in raising large sums for religious and charitable objects. There is also much force in the contention that there are many poor persons who are not in a position to give money, but who by work can contribute some saleable article as an equivalent; and this suggests the question of raffles, which have become a part and parcel of most bazaars, though there are many conscientious persons who entertain strong objections to them. It appears to me, however, that, if it is right to hold bazaars for religious purposes, there cannot be much harm

in the permission of raffles which are sanctioned by the law of the colony. Take the case of a lady who in her leisure produces a beautiful piece of fancy work, which is honestly worth say £5, an amount she could not afford to present in money. She sends it to a bazaar; few of those attending are able or willing to buy it at that price, while many will readily subscribe the shilling or half-crown towards a raffle. The prize, it is true, can only be won by one, but the others have the satisfaction of having contributed to the object of the bazaar. I recollect that Bishop Moorhouse, when Bishop of Melbourne, tried to justify raffles on the co-operative principle. But his argument was not quite logical, as co-operation implies that all who become partners in a business share in the profits (if there are any) proportionately to the capital each one subscribes. The chief objection raised to these innocent raffles is that they encourage a gambling spirit in the community. No one doubts that this prevails to a large extent amongst us; but I am afraid man is a gambling animal, and the same objection might apply to much of the enterprise and speculative industry of the world—even to matrimony itself, which is often said to be a lottery. The law, which has been de-

scribed as the perfection of human wisdom, has assumed a somewhat anomalous attitude towards raffles. Whilst it has rendered penal all games of chance, it has exempted raffles when held for religious or charitable purposes; but, if the tickets are sold anywhere but in the room where the raffle is being held, the vendors are liable to arrest and punishment.

I have omitted to state that the object of the bazaar is to raise funds for paying off a debt upon the Presbytery, amounting, I understand, to upwards of £300. I congratulate the ladies on the display of their elegant wares, and hope their efforts may meet with the success they deserve. I now declare the bazaar open.

SPEECH AT THE JUBILEE OF ST. JOHN'S CHURCH.

(Camden, 1899.)

I have been entrusted with the very pleasing duty of returning thanks to the visitors attending the present gathering. Part of my duty has already been anticipated by the chairman, Mr. King, who expressed at the luncheon our grateful acknowledgements to the Bishop of Bathurst for his presence at the jubilee celebrations. The reverend gentleman, I know, came to Camden at very considerable inconvenience. The Bishop stated at the luncheon that, during his eleven years at Bathurst, he has travelled on an average ten thousand miles a year—a record which, I understand, has not been surpassed by any Australian Bishop. To the clergy and visitors I would, on behalf of the parishioners, offer our cordial welcome. It is now fifty years since the consecration of St. John's Church by Bishop Broughton, a man of high scholastic attainments, and possessed of some of the elements of a Christian statesman. Although small of

stature, he was most dignified in manner, and most reverent and impressive in all the church services. He occupied for some years a seat in the early Legislative Council of New South Wales—as also did Archbishop Polding—and took a prominent part in the debates. He established a Theological College at the Glebe, in Sydney, and opened it with a Latin oration, which was rather severely criticised by Mr. Robert Lowe (who afterwards became Lord Sherbrooke); but in the opinion of other competent critics it was a brilliant literary achievement. There were some rather singular coincidences connected with him and Sir George Gipps, who was Governor of the colony for several years during his episcopacy. Both men were born at Canterbury, and educated at the college; they both occupied at the same time the highest positions in a remote British colony; both returned to England, where they died, and were interred at Canterbury.

In looking back through the long vista of years which have passed since the consecration of our church, one is forcibly reminded of the great changes which have taken place in all our social, political, and ecclesiastical institutions. Fifty years ago, we had but one Anglican Bishop in Australia, whose

jurisdiction not only embraced the whole of this continent, but included all the islands in the Southern Pacific Ocean. Now we have fourteen in the Australian Dioceses; and if we include New Zealand, New Guinea and Melanesia, they number as many as twenty—which may be accepted as evidence of the great progress our church has made in these distant colonies. Lord Macaulay used to say, “ I have been hearing of nothing but decay all my life, while I see nothing but progress ”; and no doubt there are many pessimists in the present day who ignore the good, and look only at the seamy side of humanity and the existing defects in our institutions. I must confess that, as one of rather conservative views, I think in matters political we have much deteriorated; but the discussion of such topics would not be in harmony with our present proceedings.

Mr. King has asked me to give a brief history of the parish since the consecration of the church. I have no written records of what has taken place, but, as I knew intimately the various incumbents who have held office, I will endeavour to give my recollections. We are mainly indebted to the Macarthur family for our picturesquely situated church and parson-

age; quite recently Mrs. Onslow presented at considerable cost a beautiful peal of bells and a clock, for which that lady cannot be sufficiently thanked. Visitors to the district have often remarked on them:

“ Dear bells! how sweet the sound of village bells
When undulating on the air they swim,
Now loud as welcomes; faint now as farewells,
And trembling all about the ruggy dells
As fluttered by the wings of Cherubim.”

Dr. Forrest was the first incumbent appointed to Camden. He was originally selected by Bishop Blomfield of London for the first headmastership of the King’s School. He was a man of commanding presence and great force of character. In 1839 Mr. Forrest relinquished the headmastership, and subsequently resided at Campbelltown, taking charge of the parish of Camden. He resided at Elderslie, receiving pupils for education, two of whom became my brothers-in-law. The Camden church was not then built; Mr. Forrest performed Divine Service in a small schoolroom still standing close to the residence at Camden Park. He was a most admirable reader, and the church services as rendered

by him were most impressive, and full of beauty and solemnity. It was before the days of monotoning, when to read well was considered an important qualification. In 1848 Mr. Forrest resumed the headmastership of King's School, continuing his duties until 1853, when his health again broke down. He died shortly afterwards. Mr. Forrest was succeeded in the incumbency by Mr. Rogers, who was in charge of the parish when the church was consecrated. He was a gentleman of kind and genial manners, making a point of visiting everyone in his parish; he acted on the principle that "a house-going parson makes a church-going congregation," and had his reward in seeing on Sundays a well-attended church. In 1859 Mr. Rogers was transferred to Trinity Parish in Sydney, where he ministered till his death, greatly beloved. Mr. Tingcombe came next, a man of refined tastes and manners, most earnest and devoted, but unfortunately a martyr to ill-health. Mr. Tingcombe went to England to recruit his health, leaving the parish in charge of Mr. Barlow; but he returned not much benefited, and resigned the incumbency about 1873, when he was succeeded by Mr. Moran. Of that gentleman it is not necessary to say much, as most present still

retain a lively recollection of his work in the parish. He was a kind and generous-hearted man. Perhaps he will be best remembered for his dabblings in science and his researches into the hidden mysteries of animal life. Delicacy forbids me to say much of our present incumbent, Mr. King; but this I must remark, that Mr. King found the parish neglected and disorganised, whereas now it is one of the best-organised country parishes in the diocese. There are six churches in which divine service is celebrated, whilst religious instruction is imparted in all the public schools. In conclusion, it would not be just to omit mentioning that for much of this success Mr. King is indebted to a magnificent patron, who has been of the greatest assistance, and by her generous contributions helped not only to repair and beautify the churches, but also to provide much of the machinery by which these results have been effected.

SPEECH AT A PRESENTATION TO DR. MORTON.

(Camden, April 3, 1901.)

Through the courtesy of the Mayor, and at the unanimous request of the Testimonial Committee, I have been allotted the very pleasing duty of presenting you with a memento on behalf of your numerous friends in the Camden district. By your courteous manners and many kindly acts during your residence amongst us, you have won the respect and esteem of all classes of the community. During the last forty years it has often been my privilege to prepare addresses to welcome distinguished visitors to our district, and to present testimonials to departing residents; but I only remember one previous occasion when a medical man amongst us, on retiring from his practice, was honoured with a similar compliment, and that was my relative, Dr. Chisholm, who was invited to a banquet, a very ephemeral mode of recognising merit.

The profession of a medical man often

entails much anxiety and responsibility. He is liable to be called out at all times and seasons; if he is a country practitioner, he has often to undertake long journeys at a moment's notice, and is often the last to receive remuneration for his services. It would surprise many of those present to hear of the large amount of professional work done by some of our leading medical men in the large Sydney hospitals, for which they receive no remuneration whatever, although many of the patients admitted into these institutions are quite capable of paying something for their maintenance and the services of the staff. I recollect that some years ago in one week two men were admitted to Sydney Hospital as pauper patients, one of whom had about £600 secreted on his person, and the other possessed a similar amount. As these institutions have no endowments, and are wholly supported by Government subsidy and the voluntary contributions of the public, it is becoming a serious question how they are to be maintained in the future.

For a number of years past Camden has been most fortunate in her medical men, who have not only inspired their patients with confidence, but have worked harmoniously together. They have also taken an

active interest in all that pertains to the social and material welfare of the people. Whilst, therefore, I would express our sincere regret at the severance of your connection with the district, where the most friendly relations have existed amongst us, I would congratulate you on entering a more important and extended sphere of labour, in which we wish you every success. A metropolitan practice will, no doubt, afford you many greater opportunities of keeping in touch with the advance of medical science, and exchanging views with the leading professional minds of the colony. In these days of rapid progress, unless a man is a careful reader and observer, he soon grows rusty in his ideas and antiquated in his practice. I have lately been reading an admirable work, "Social Life in Scotland During the Eighteenth Century," which throws much light on the condition of medical science in that country and throughout Europe at that time. It seems almost incredible to us, living in this enlightened age, that such atrocious mixtures could have been administered to patients, or that they could have survived their use. A better knowledge of chemistry and physiology has introduced more rational treatment of diseases; though even now

there is much in medicine that is merely empirical, and improved sanitation and a closer observance of the rules of health will tend in the future to prevent disease and render cure unnecessary.

In wishing God-speed to our departing friend, I think I ought to express a word of welcome to his successor, Dr. West, who has come to us highly recommended, and possesses, I believe, a thorough knowledge of his profession. He labours under the present disability of being rather young; but time will remove this, and report says he is shortly to be married, which will better commend him to many of his patients. In *Punch*, some time ago, two women were represented as talking in the street of a country village when a gentleman passes on a bicycle; one inquires of the other who the gentleman is. "Oh," says the other, "that's the new doctor come here lately. It'd be kind of you to give him a bit of a trial; he had a heap of patients when he first came, and now they're all dead." That, I am sure, will never be said of our new doctor, who will do his best to keep all his patients alive and flourishing.

SPEECH ON THE KING'S ILLNESS.

(Camden, July 3, 1902.)

GENTLEMEN,—

Before commencing the business of the meeting I feel assured I do but voice the feeling of those present in expressing our heartfelt sympathy with our beloved King in the serious illness with which he is now prostrated. There is a peculiar pathos in his present illness, as it has happened on the very eve of his coronation, after the completion of most elaborate preparations and the Declaration of Peace, which he had so earnestly desired after a protracted and disastrous war. Instead of the universal rejoicings to which we had looked forward, a wave of profound sorrow has passed over the great British Empire, and although the latest reports give us hope of his recovery there is still much cause for anxiety. His generous instincts and remarkable tact have not only endeared him to his subjects, but won for him the respect and admiration of all nations throughout the civilised world. At the death of his august mother it is said

he promised to walk in her footsteps, and to devote his best energies to the happiness and welfare of his people. There is little doubt, if he should be spared, that he will prove himself a wise and beneficent ruler. May God grant him a speedy recovery, and that he may long reign in peace over a loyal and prosperous Empire.

REMINISCENCES OF THE SYDNEY COLLEGE.

In 1843, Mr. Cape having relinquished the position of headmaster, Mr. T. N. Braim was appointed to the office, and I, with two of my younger brothers, became his pupils. Although between fifty and sixty years have since elapsed, I retain a lively recollection of our first appearance in the playground. We had been brought up in the country, and had scarcely ever been in Sydney, so that our acquaintance with the fashions was not exactly up to date; and we wore white beaver hats of some nondescript pattern, which immediately excited the curiosity of the other pupils. They surrounded us immediately, but evidently regarded us as three “innocents abroad,” so we received but a slight bonneting, though the humiliation of being dressed differently to the other boys weighed heavily on our minds, and we lost no time in conforming to more modern fashions. We had also been provided by our good mother with neat little nightcaps to keep our heads warm whilst in bed; but, after the experience of

the hats, we thought it advisable to quietly put these out of the way, and so escaped further ridicule.

Mr. Braim, so far as I now recollect, was a man of courteous, though rather pompous, manners, with very ordinary scholastic attainments, but a good disciplinarian. He kept much aloof from the boys, and I do not think he was ever on very friendly relations with his assistant masters. Amongst those I might name Mr. O'Brien, teacher of mathematics; Moore, assistant classic; Slattery, for English, who also had a class in which he used to lecture on general knowledge. An old gentleman, whose name was Davidson, had charge of the junior classes; he was a most successful teacher of writing, for there were few of his pupils who did not write excellent hands, though I am afraid I was not amongst the number. We had also a French and drawing master; and I must not omit to mention Signor Carandini, who taught us dancing. He was a handsome Italian, a model of deportment, and his wife, Madame Carandini, was for many years *prima donna* of the Sydney stage. Unfortunately we had no ladies in the class, so they had to be improvised from amongst the boys, and many funny scenes occurred which sorely tried

the temper of the master and made it difficult to maintain discipline.

The school was opened by Mr. Braim with a large number of pupils, notwithstanding that many of the elder boys left on the retirement of Mr. Cape. Amongst those of my contemporaries whom I best recollect were five sons of Sir Alfred Stephen, including Alfred, the eldest, who afterwards finished his education in England, and was for a number of years Incumbent of St. Paul's, Redfern,

Consett Stephen, the founder of the well-known firm of solicitors known as Stephen and Stephen, a man of marked ability, and one of my most valued and intimate friends,

His brother, H. M. Stephen, the present Judge, whose unblemished character and conscientious discharge of duty entitles him to the respect of the community,

W. Wentworth, the son of Australia's greatest statesman, who had inherited much of his father's ability. He and Consett Stephen were so much in advance of the other pupils that they formed a class by themselves. Wentworth left for England, where he entered one of the Universities, and being of delicate constitution, soon succumbed to the climate,

John Lackey, one of Nature's gentlemen, who by his own unaided efforts and genial manners has achieved for himself an honourable and distinguished position in the colony,

Henry Dangar, a good type of the old Conservatism, which is unhappily passing away and being superseded by changes of very doubtful character, and Sir Robert Wisdom, who became Attorney-General in one of Sir John Robertson's Administrations.

W. B. Dalley, I believe, was also for a short time a student under Mr. Braim, but left for St. Mary's Seminary, which had been opened under the auspices of Archbishop Polding.

The curriculum was pretty much the same as that now prevailing in our public and private schools, though the subjects were not so numerous and varied. The Greek and Latin occupied a prominent place, whilst French was the only modern language taught besides our own vernacular; and, I think, more importance was attached to writing and spelling. I still have in my possession a number of the old school-books and prizes, including Greek and Latin authors, with the English textbooks then in use. Amongst the latter are Pinnock's and

Goldsmith's Histories of Greece, Rome, and England, Enfield's Speaker, Keith on the Globes, Magnall's Questions, and others, all of which I believe are now quite obsolete.

A small library attached to the school contained a few good works, two of which I recollect reading when a pupil. One was Mungo Park's "Travels on the Niger in Western Africa," now the source of much friction between France and England; the other, a small volume written by Sir James Martin shortly after he left the College, was called "The Australian Sketch-Book." It consisted of a series of short essays on different subjects, one of which I particularly recollect, descriptive of a thunder-storm the writer witnessed during a visit to the Blue Mountains. Whilst watching the play of the elements he observed an eagle sailing majestically along in the very face of the storm; it suddenly darted upon a small bird flying some distance below, seized it with its talons, and was in the act of carrying it off in triumph, when it was struck by lightning, and both fell dead to the ground. The incident suggested to the writer a beautiful metaphor in which the mighty rulers of the earth are sometimes stricken on the eve of victory by an invisible power much greater than their own,

and their ambition blighted on the threshold of success.

The school was opened and closed with prayer; these, in Mr. Braim's time, were read by one of the senior pupils, who was called upon by the schoolmaster, without notice, to perform the duty. They consisted of a selection from the liturgies of the Church of England, and the student who read them knelt before a chair in the centre of the hall. On Sundays the boarders attended service in St. James' Church, of which the Rev. Mr. Allwood was incumbent —a post he filled for upwards of forty years, his predecessor, the Rev. Mr. Hill, having, I believe, died in the pulpit. Though not regarded as an eloquent preacher, Mr. Allwood was possessed of considerable culture, and was most estimable in private life. He was offered the Bishopric of Newcastle when the See was first created, but declined it on the score of failing health.

In recently attending service in the old Church, for the first time after many years, I was much impressed with its quaint interior and antiquated fittings. It long served as the pro-cathedral before St. Andrews' was completed, and I have often heard Bishop Broughton preach there, who

was the first Anglican Bishop of Australia. He was a man of great ability, short in stature, and very lame, but of dignified and courteous manners. He always drove robed to church in a ponderous old-fashioned style of carriage, with a footman standing behind, and the coachman seated upon a hammer-cloth, on which the episcopal arms were emblazoned. I missed from the church the three-decker pulpit which in my schooldays stood near to the centre, though I thought I recognised the preaching portion jammed against the wall. I suppose it is preserved as a precious relic of the past. The southern gallery also, which used to be occupied by the prisoners from the Hyde Park barracks, had been removed, and the pews must have been greatly reduced in height, as a tall boy, in my boyhood, had to stand up to see over the wooden enclosure. At the time of which I write there were only two other churches in Sydney: old St. Phillip's, long since replaced by the present building, and Christ Church, the consecration of which I attended when a pupil at the College.

The playground was most inadequate for the boys' requirements; but we had the advantage over the present Grammar School in the use of a portion of Hyde Park, then

known as the Race Course, where we played cricket, and where all the principal matches took place between the various Sydney clubs. In addition to this we also wandered over the Riley Estate, to which we gained access through a hole in the boundary wall of the College, and in which we occasionally picnicked when time did not admit of our going to Bondi or Coogee. It included all the land between William, Bourke and Oxford Streets, which then was thick with grass and native shrubs, but is now densely covered with houses. There was a cleared and secluded spot in this land close to the College called the "Convincing Ground," from the circumstance that many of the boys' quarrels were privately adjusted there. In Germany it is customary for students to settle their differences by a little sword-practice, which has sometimes resulted in serious wounds; in the Sydney College disagreements were often decided by the aggrieved party challenging the offender to a pugilistic encounter at "the back of the wall." Thither both combatants would repair as soon as the school was closed in the afternoon, accompanied by a few of their friends, and after divesting themselves of a few of their garments, would engage in fisticuffs.

No serious consequences ever followed, so far as I can recollect, beyond an occasional black eye or the loss of a little claret; and after a few rounds honour was thought sufficiently vindicated, the combatants were satisfied, and peace restored.

During the play-hour between twelve and one o'clock, a man who rejoiced in the true Hibernian name of Gallagher attended the school with a tray to sell cakes and lollies to the boys. He was a born rhymester, and evidently not a strict believer in teetotalism. On one occasion he was arrested by the police for being drunk and disorderly in the streets, and brought before Captain Innes (father of the late Sir George Innes), who was police magistrate in Sydney. The charge having been proved against him, the magistrate sentenced him to seven days in the lock-up; on hearing which he made a pathetic appeal in verse:

“ O Captain dear, if you plaise,
Make it hours instead of days;
For it well becomes an Irishman
To wet his shamrock when he can.”

I don't remember the sequel, but I think it most probable the sentence was much curtailed.

The Domain being in close proximity to the College, the students often went there

for amusement and recreation. Sir James Dowling, Chief Justice of the colony, was in the habit of walking round the Domain after his work in the Supreme Court, before returning to his home in Darlinghurst. One afternoon I happened to be strolling alone, when I was overtaken by his Honor on the lower road, not far from St. Mary's Cathedral. He asked me my name and, knowing my family, chatted with me as we walked together till we came to William Street just below the Museum, where we were to part. He put his hand into his pocket, and remarked, "I suppose you would not object to a little pocket-money," to which I readily assented. He then gave me sixpence; which I recollect thinking a small sum for one of such exalted position to offer, but Sir James no doubt thought it ample for a small boy to spend in cakes and lollies. I might add that the purchasing power of money was greater in those days than at present, and the stakes of whist-players were often for sheep points and a bullock on the rubber.

When I became a pupil there was but one house in William Street, called Alpha Cottage, situated about midway between the Museum and the top of the hill; between William Street and Woolloomooloo Bay

there was a solitary residence occupied by Archbishop Polding, and approached from the direction of St. Mary's Cathedral by a long avenue of Norfolk Island pines. Sir James Dowling's residence (called Brougham Lodge) stood in a large garden at the corner of William and Victoria Streets, where is now built a large terrace of houses.

Sir Stuart Donaldson lived close by, on the site occupied by Alberta Terrace, and his house was also surrounded by a large garden. He was a man of jovial habits but very pompous manners, and, the entrance gate before his house having become very shabby, he had it replaced with one of a more pretentious character. This his friends called the "Sublime Porte," and by a metaphor the name passed to the owner.

Elizabeth Bay House was erected fully sixty years ago, and stood alone in a large piece of ground, now covered with buildings. For many years the land surrounding the house was allowed to remain in its primitive condition, being entirely occupied with trees and native plants, and used by its owner for botanical and entomological research. The students of the College occasionally strayed into the grounds to gather "five corners" (*Styphelia Viridiflora*), a wild fruit I fancy, more relished by youngsters

in those days than now. A number of us happened to be trespassing within the enclosure one afternoon, when we were surprised by the owner, Mr. Alexander McLeay, coming by in his carriage. Seeing us within the sacred precincts, the coachman called out "The bloodhounds were close upon us"; and, knowing a number were kept at the house, we quickly cleared out, and I for one never poached there again.

As regards athletics, cricket occupied the foremost place, but had not reached the scientific pitch to which it has now attained. There were some very good players amongst the students, a few of whom I still remember, including Richard Driver, W. Still, Morris, and Tom Lewis. After leaving the College they achieved quite a reputation in the cricket field, and the two last-named I occasionally meet about Sydney.

Foot-races were most popular in winter, and generally run round that portion of the park in front of the College, included between College, Liverpool, and Park Streets. Court tennis or fives played with the hand was also much in favour; we had an excellent court at the south end of the building. The ignoble games of tops, marbles, and dumps were much in vogue amongst the

junior boys; but golf, lawn tennis, and football had not been introduced. An anecdote of Sir Henry Parkes is here suggested to me which, I believe, is quite authentic. When I was at the college he kept a small toy shop in Hunter Street, and was well known as an adept for turning tops. A boy at school had obtained from his shop one of superior make, with which he had succeeded in splitting the tops of the other boys; being anxious to secure another of similar quality, he took his old top to Mr. Parkes (who had not then become Sir Henry), and asked for another of the same pattern. After looking over his stock he succeeded in finding one of the same pattern and make, for which he asked ninepence. The boy remonstrated, and said Mrs. Parkes, who had served him on the former occasion, had only charged sixpence. Mr. Parkes, however, was obdurate, and insisted on the higher price being paid, but said he would detain the top and the sixpence which the boy had tendered until he brought the balance. The embryo Sir Henry at this time evidently had a keen eye for business.

Reference has been made by others to the school's bathing-place in the Domain at a spot long known as the Fig Tree. In

my schooldays this had been abandoned for a place nearer the head of Woolloomooloo Bay, called the Centipede Rocks, and close to Cowper Wharf. It was well screened by native scrub, and as the water gradually deepened from a little sandy beach, it was in some respects more favourable for the younger boys who were learning to swim. There was no fear of sharks in those days; the more expert swimmers would sometimes go out into the middle of the bay, and I do not recollect hearing of any serious accident having occurred. Nor had sewage matter at this time polluted the water to any appreciable extent.

In 1844 a murder of unusual atrocity was committed in Sydney, which greatly shocked the feelings of the public. The perpetrator of the deed, whose name was Knatchbull, was a brother of a well-known English Baronet, and had been a Post-Captain in the Navy; but, having committed some criminal act, he was transported to the colony. Having served his sentence, he had obtained his freedom, and was boarding with a poor woman who lived in some back street in Sydney, whom he ruthlessly murdered in order to obtain a few shillings. He was tried for the offence and defended by Mr. Robert Lowe, but was convicted and

sentenced to be hanged. It was customary in those early days for criminals found guilty of capital offences to be executed outside the prison walls, where a gallows was erected for the purpose. A number of the students, never having witnessed such a spectacle, thought they would gratify their curiosity on this occasion, and, unknown to the masters, joined the crowd that were wending its way to the scene. The gallows was surrounded by all sorts and conditions of men, including many women and children. The usual formalities having been observed, the bolt was drawn and the poor wretch launched into eternity. It was a ghastly sight which haunted me for weeks, and effectually cured me of any desire to see another execution.

Mr. Lowe, whose name I have mentioned in connection with the trial, was a leading member of the Bar, and occupied a prominent position in the colony. He was an exceedingly able man, a learned classic, and a brilliant speaker and debater; but he was much wanting in the *suaviter in modo*, which rendered him very unpopular amongst a large portion of the people. He and his wife lived out at Little Coogee, and I have frequently seen them passing the College on their way in and out of town.

They became noted for eccentric manners and a disregard for appearances, which they exhibited by driving about in a ram-shackle sort of vehicle with a horse to match it. The boys called it the Native Dog, from its resemblance to a magnified species of that genus. The carriage contained a dicky behind, which was utilised for a variety of purposes; I have seen Mrs. Lowe driving home with the carcase of a sheep, just obtained from the butcher's, exposed to public gaze, while on other occasions a truss of hay or a bundle of fruit trees would be conspicuous in the dicky. After residing in the colony for some years Mr. Lowe returned to England, where he became Chancellor of the Exchequer, and was subsequently raised to the Peerage, under the title of Lord Sherbrooke. An epitaph was written for him, which it is said so amused him, that he turned it into Latin verse. As it is eminently descriptive of his character, and perhaps unknown to some readers, I may be permitted to repeat it:—

“ Heaven rest his soul! but where 'tis fled
 Can't be imagined, much less said;
 If he the realms above us share,
 No more will love or peace be there;
 But if he's gone to lower level,
 Let's all commiserate the devil.”

My recollections would not be complete without some reference to our holidays, which were neither so numerous nor so lengthy as at present. We got three weeks at Christmas, and the same period in June, with ten days at Easter and Michaelmas. We also had a half holiday on Saturdays, and a whole one at the end of the month. Railways did not exist, and, considering the distance many of the boys had to travel to reach their homes in the country, a large portion of their holidays were consumed in the journey to and from the College. It took three days to reach Goulburn by ordinary conveyance, and the postage of a letter from there to Sydney was tenpence — which was not in favour of frequent correspondence. Postage stamps were first used in the colony in 1838, or two years earlier than in England; they were not adhesive stamps, like those at present in use, but a cover or envelope for enclosing the letter, upon which was embossed the Royal coat of arms. These were obtained at the General Post Office at so much a dozen.

Mr. Braim remained in office during the first two years of my college life, but about the beginning of 1845 obtained leave of absence to visit England, and Mr. J. B.

Laughton became the acting headmaster. He was a scholarly man and a graduate of Glasgow University, but sadly wanting in those refinements of manner which are so essential to the character of a gentleman. The cane was his panacea for all juvenile delinquencies, varied by impositions, which consisted in committing to memory so many lines of some Greek or Latin author. He took little interest in the school life of the boys, and evinced no sympathy with them in their games or amusements. As a natural consequence, he became very unpopular in the school, and this culminated in a small riot on the eve of one of the vacations. There had been a breaking-up supper, on which occasions much latitude was generally allowed; after retiring to the dormitories it was customary to indulge in a number of popular songs, *The Bay of Biscay*, *The Wonderful Crocodile*, and *Billy Barlow* being special favourites. This amusement was kept up till midnight, when a number of students proceeded to smash the windows in the large dormitory in the basement below the hall, which was followed up by breaking all the crockery in the adjacent lavatory. Next morning all the ring-leaders decamped, and many of the pupils never returned to the College. I may men-

tion a circumstance here which contributed much to Mr. Laughton's growing unpopularity, and which helped to bring about the disturbance related above. A cricket match between a Maitland team and the leading Sydney club had been arranged to be played on Hyde Park, which in those early days (1845) was an important event in the annals of Australian cricket. Many of the students were most anxious to witness the game, and made application to the headmaster for a holiday, which he peremptorily refused to grant. Between twenty and thirty of the boys determined they would not be baulked, and in defiance of authority took French leave, my brother and myself being amongst the number. The match was played on that portion of the Park close to St. James' Church, which at this time had not been planted with trees, Macquarie Street running through the Park into Liverpool Street opposite Lyons' Terrace. What chiefly impressed the event on my mind was that, at the very outset of the game, I was hit on the head with a cricket-ball and stunned—a judgment, no doubt, for my misconduct; and to mend matters the day turned out wet and proved one of the most miserable I ever experienced. I have in my possession a pencil sketch of the game, taken by one of

the students, which I much prize as a relic of the past. On our return to school there was of course a great commotion, and rumours of expulsions, with other drastic penalties; and it ended in each of the delinquents having to learn five hundred lines of Virgil, which were subsequently remitted.

I think it was towards the end of 1845 that Mr. Braim returned from England after an absence of twelve months, loaded with titles, if not with honours, which he had acquired in some mysterious way. He had become a fellow of one Society and a member of another, all being capped, if I remember rightly, by an LL.D. Mr. Robert Lowe, who at this time was the principal contributor to a satirical paper called *The Atlas*, commented severely on these titles, which Mr. Braim had the questionable taste to publish in some conspicuous manner in the papers of the day. Mr. Lowe suggested that A.S.S. would have been more appropriate, meaning, I suppose, as in the case of Dr. Panglos in the play, “Artium Societatis Socius.” Poor Braim never resumed the headmastership of the College; it was thought his titles had something to do with the matter, though for the truth of this I cannot vouch. He afterwards went to Victoria, where he entered the ministry of the

English Church, and died recently (having become an Archdeacon) much liked and respected.

Mr. Laughton for a short time longer remained the headmaster; but the school had been greatly diminished in numbers, and he finally retired towards the close of 1846, after which he became a clergyman of the Presbyterian Church, and I believe was regarded as a powerful if not an eloquent preacher.

On his retirement Mr. Patterson took charge of the school, but of him I intend to say little. He was a man of coarse and vulgar manner, and utterly unfitted for the position. Under his mismanagement the school rapidly declined, and finally collapsed towards the close of 1847.

Such are my recollections of the old College, for the narrative of which I have been altogether dependent on memory, having kept no written records of my school life. In looking back through such a long vista of years, I have been forcibly reminded of the great changes which have taken place in all our educational institutions, as well as in our social and political relations. The standard of qualification of our teachers, both in public and private schools, has been greatly raised, the methods of instruction

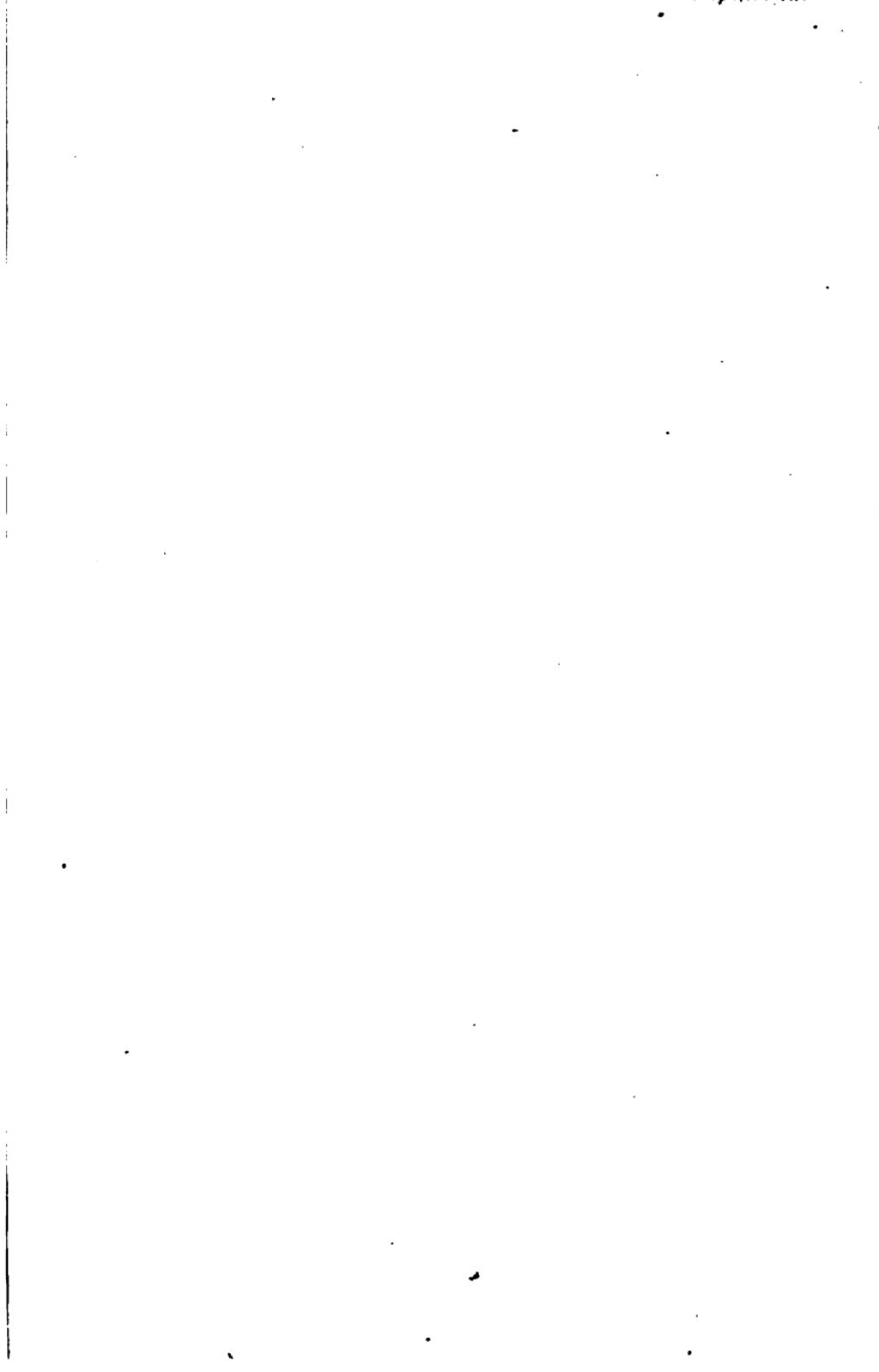
much improved, and the subjects taught are more varied, if not more useful. To crown all, a noble University has been established, in which the highest culture is imparted on easy terms to all ambitious students desirous of distinguishing themselves in science, literature, or the arts. Such advantages were unknown in the past, and are sufficient to excite the envy of those who received their education under the older system; though notwithstanding its defects many achieved distinction under it, amongst whom might be mentioned Sir James Martin, Dalley, Forster, and others. School education has been defined as the "development of faculty rather than the acquisition of knowledge," which comes by subsequent study and research. If the latent powers of the mind are to be fully utilised and developed, education must be a continuous process going on throughout the whole course of life, and not confined to the limited instruction of our school days. Gladstone and Dean Stanley are said to have owed everything to the headmasters of their respective schools, Eton and Rugby; this may be partly true, since they received from them the guiding impulses which shaped their future lives, but both continued indefatigable students until the close of their

earthly career. And so it must be with all who desire culture in its higher sense, though the realms of knowledge are now so vast and life so brief that the greatest minds are only able, like Sir Isaac Newton, to "gather a few pebbles from off the shore of the great ocean of truth."

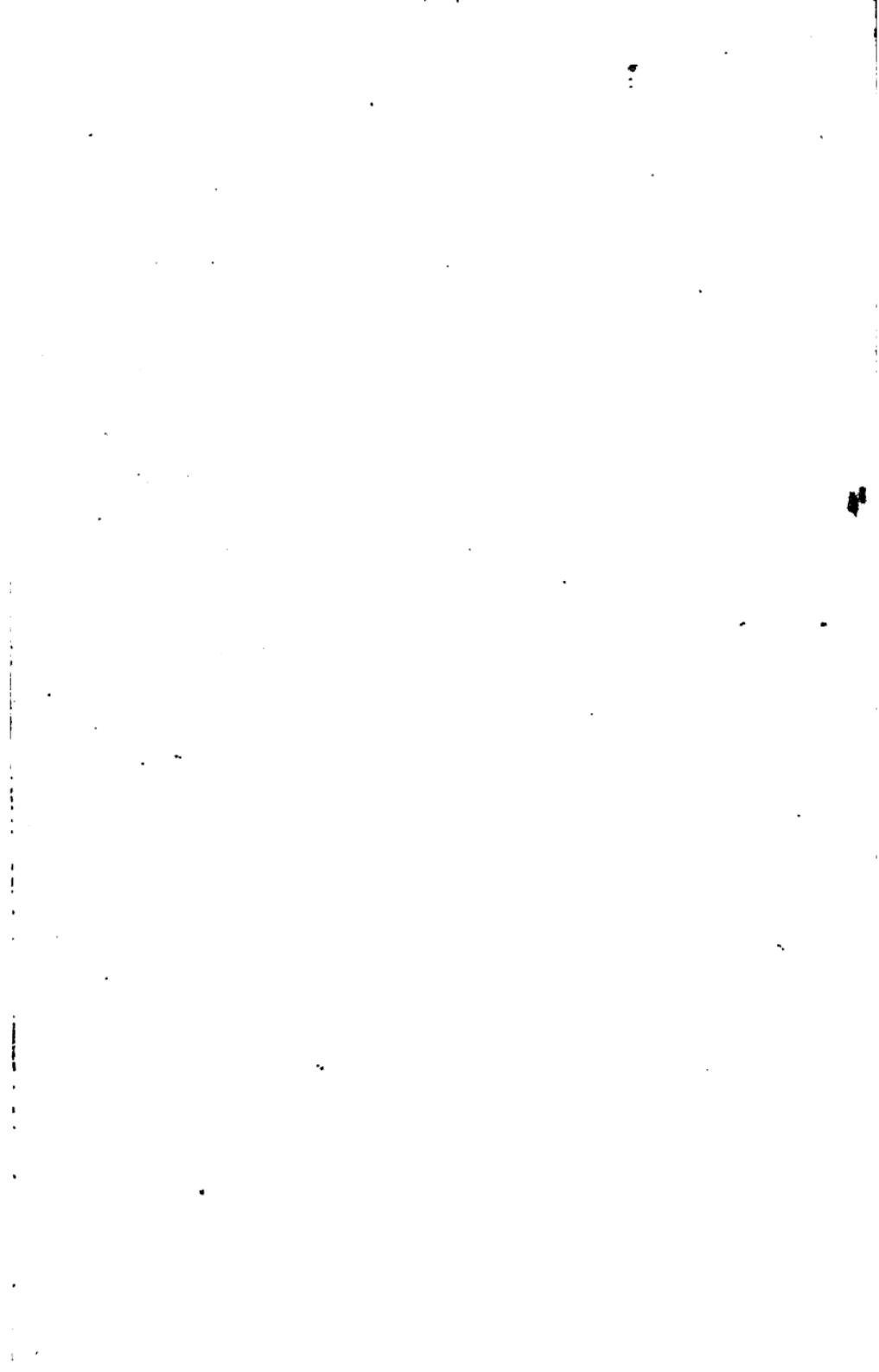
It was not my good fortune to have been a pupil at the Sydney Grammar School, but I have become acquainted with many who received their early training there, and who are much indebted to the excellent head-master who for the last thirty years has occupied that important and responsible position in the School. By his kindly influence and generous sympathies he has materially helped to mould their lives and inspire them with manly and noble aims, which have stimulated their efforts towards the achievement of useful and honourable positions in the colony. May he long continue to occupy the office he has so successfully filled, and receive the gratitude and respect of all his pupils, to which he is justly entitled.











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